



We owe a lot to the Indians who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made.

- Albert Einstein

Great Minds on India



Twenty-four centuries before Isaac Newton, the ancient Indian scripture asserted that gravitation held the universe together. The Indians developed the use of zero and negative numbers perhaps a thousand years before these concepts were accepted in Europe.

- Dick Teresi

Salil Gewali

Great Minds on India

Salil Gewali

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The influence of Indian literature on
our time will not be lesser than what was in the 16th
century Greece's influence on Renaissance.

One day, India's wisdom will flow again on Europe
and will totally transform our knowledge and thought.

- *Arthur Schopenhauer, German philosopher*



1879-1955

Undoubtedly the most famous scientist and philosopher in the history of mankind, he was born in Germany. He developed the **Theory of Relativity**, which is one of the two pillars of modern physics, and is well known for his **Energy-Mass** equation. He received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921 for the discovery of **The Law of the Photoelectric Effect** and will be revered as a founder of modern physics for a long time.

Albert Einstein

We owe a lot to the **Indians**
who taught us how to count,
without which no
worthwhile scientific
discovery
could have been made.

Source: Ignited Minds : Unleashing the Power within India
by **APJ Abdul Kalam**

An American-born British playwright, literary critic, publisher, philosopher, and one of the most celebrated poets of the twentieth century. His best works include 'The Waste Land', 'The Hollow Men', 'Ash Wednesday', 'Journey of the Magi' and 'Four Quartets'. He won the Nobel Prize in literature in 1948 in appreciation of his exceptional contribution to modern poetry.



1888-1965

T. S. Eliot

Indian philosophers' subtleties make most
of the great European philosophers
look like schoolboys.

*

Two years spent in the study of Sanskrit
under Charles Lanman, and a year in the
mazes of Patanjali's metaphysics under the
guidance of James Woods, left me in a state
of **enlightened mystification.**

Source: *After Strange Gods* – by T. S. Eliot

Eliot learnt Sanskrit and studied Vedas, Upanishads,
and the Bhagavad Gita

Long ago I studied the ancient Indian languages, and while I was chiefly interested at that time in philosophy, I read a little poetry too; and I know that my own poetry shows the influence of Indian thought and sensibility.

Source: *Notes Towards the Definition of Culture* - by T. S. Eliot

In his *'The Waste Land,'* Eliot included the three cardinal virtues as spelt out in the *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad* — **datta** (to give alms), **dayadhvam** (to have compassion), **damyata** (to practice self-control) as solution for spiritual bankruptcy in the modern wasteland. The poem ends with the auspicious Sanskrit words *Shantih, Shantih, Shantih* meaning peace.

The greatest French philosopher, historian, enlightenment author, critic and essayist; a forerunner of the French revolution, best known for his satirical book '**Candide**'. He was famous for his wit. He has written more than 2,000 books and pamphlets, despite the strict censorship of the laws of the time. He constantly used his works to criticize religious dogma, intolerance and French institutions of his time.



1694-1778

Francois M. Voltaire

I am convinced that everything has come down to us from the banks of the Ganga – astronomy, astrology, metempsychosis, etc. It is very important to note that some 2,500 years ago at the least Pythagoras went from Samos to the Ganga to learn geometry. But he would certainly not have undertaken such a strange journey had the reputation of the Brahmins' science not been long established in Europe.

Source: Riding the Indian tiger - by William Nobrega, Ashish Sinha

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The Veda was the most precious gift for which the West had ever been indebted to the East.

*Source: Eclectic magazine: Foreign literature
by John Holmes Agnew, Walter Hilliard Bidwell*

If **India**, whom **the whole earth needs**, and who alone needs no one, must by that very fact be the most anciently civilized land, she must therefore **have had the most ancient form of religion.**

*

We have shown how much we surpass the Indians in courage and wickedness, and how inferior to them we are in wisdom. Our European nations have mutually destroyed themselves in this land where we only go in search of money, while the first **Greeks** traveled to the same land **only to instruct themselves.**

Source: Fragments historiques sur l'Inde by Voltaire

One of the great German philosophers and writers, best known for his work **'The World as Will and Representation'**. Though his work failed to attract much attention during his life, he had a great impact on thinkers throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, through his writing on aesthetics, morality, and psychology. His works had an impact upon great scholars, such as *Nietzsche, Wagner, Wittgenstein, Schrodinger, Einstein, Freud, Rank, Jung and Eminescu.*



1788-1860

Arthur Schopenhauer

In the whole world there is no study so beneficial and so elevating as that of the Upanishads. It has been the **solace of my life**; and it will be the **solace of my death**. They are the product of the **highest wisdom**.

Source: The Discovery of India - by Jawaharlal Nehru

*

Access to the Vedas is the greatest privilege this century may claim over all previous centuries.

*

How entirely does the Upanishad breathe throughout the holy spirit of the Vedas! How is every one, who by a diligent study of its Persian Latin has become familiar with that **incomparable book**, stirred by that **spirit to the very depth of his Soul!**

Source: Autobiography of a Yogi - by Paramhansa Yogananda

'Autobiography of a Yogi' was one book in particular stayed with Apple CEO Steve Jobs entire life. This guide to meditation and spirituality that he had first read as a teenager, then re-read in India and had read once a year ever since. - Walter Isaacson's Biography, Steve Jobs



1901-1976

One of the greatest German theoretical physicists and Nobel Laureates. He had the chance to meet and interact with **Niels Bohr**, which had a great influence on him. A few years later, he became a lecturer and assistant to Bohr, at the University of Copenhagen, where he developed his **Uncertainty Principle**, which followed the Matrix Formulation of Quantum Mechanics, leading to the discovery of the **allotropic forms of hydrogen**. In 1929, he visited India and had philosophical discussions with **Rabindranath Tagore**, based on Vedanta, particularly, the **oneness of the universe and interconnection and interrelation** of all things (*animate and inanimate*) – the ideas, never heard of in the West, greatly impressed him.

Werner Heisenberg

After the conversations about Indian philosophy with Tagore, some of the ideas of **Quantum Physics** that had seemed so crazy suddenly **made much more sense**. That was a great help for me.

Source: *Uncommon wisdom* - by Fritjof Capra

Fritjof Capra writes: Heisenberg began to see that the recognition of *relativity, interconnectedness, and impermanence* as fundamental aspects of physical reality, which had been so difficult for himself and his fellow physicists, was the very *basis of the Indian spiritual traditions*. (*Uncommon wisdom*)

One of the greatest physicists of the twentieth century, and a Nobel laureate, who developed many fundamental results on the basis of **Wave Mechanics**.

The philosophical aspects of science interested him, and he wrote on philosophy and theoretical biology as well. He is well known for his **Schrodinger's Cat** thought-experiment. His **Schrodinger Equation** has been regarded as one of the most important achievements of the twentieth century. He also wrote about '*The basic View of Vedanta*' by expounding Sankara's version of '*Advaita*' and '*Non-Dualism*'.



1887-1961

Erwin Schrodinger

Some blood transfusion from the East to the
West is a must to save
Western science from spiritual anemia.

Source: *Long Walk to Enlightenment* by Dr. Thullayvel Naidoo

*

In all world there is no kind of framework within
which we can find consciousness in the plural;
this is simply something we construct
because of the temporal plurality of
individuals, but it is a false construction....
The only solution to this conflict in so far as
any is available to us at all lies in the
ancient wisdom of the Upanishads.

Source: *My View of the World* by Erwin Schrodinger

This life of yours which you are living is not merely a piece of this entire existence, but in a certain sense, the **WHOLE**; only this whole is not so constituted that it can be surveyed in one single glance. This, as we know, is what the Brahmins express in that sacred, mystic formula (in Vedanta) which is yet really so simple and so clear

cat tvam asi, (THAT you are).

Or, again, in such words as 'I am in the east and the west,
I am above and below, I am this entire world.'

Source *Model of Man: Mind & Matter* Mind & Morality, by Marty Munteiro

I had accepted a post as a lecturer in theoretical physics in Czernowitz and had already envisaged spending all my free time acquiring a deeper knowledge of philosophy, having just discovered Schopenhauer, who introduced me to the Unified Theory of the Upanishads.

Source: *What is life? the physical aspect of the living cell & Mind and matter*
by Erwin Schrödinger

✱

The multiplicity is only apparent. This is the doctrine of the **Upanishads**. And not of the Upanishads only. The mystical experience of the union with God regularly leads to this view, unless strong prejudices stand in the West.

Source: *The Tree of Life: Eastern Mythology and Science*
by Amory de Riencourt

The number of people who have been killed in the past 24 hours is 100. The number of people who have been killed in the past 24 hours is 100. The number of people who have been killed in the past 24 hours is 100.



1904-1967

Held in high esteem as 'The father of the Atomic Bomb', Oppenheimer was a great American theoretical physicist. His achievements include the **Born-Oppenheimer Approximation**, **Electron-Positron Theory**, **The Oppenheimer-Phillips Process** and the first prediction of **Quantum Tunneling**. In addition, he contributed significantly to the modern theory of *neutron stars and black holes, quantum mechanics, quantum field theory and the interactions of cosmic rays.*

Julius R. Oppenheimer

What we shall find in **Modern Physics** is an exemplification, an encouragement and **a refinement of old Indian wisdom.**

Source: *The Tao of Physics* - by Fritjof Capra

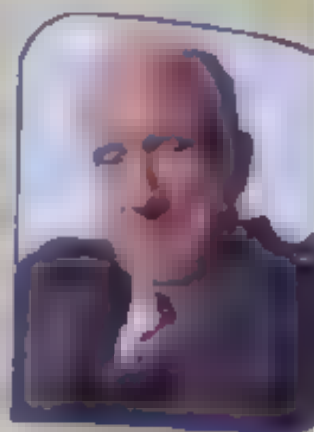
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The juxtaposition of Western civilization's most terrifying scientific achievement with the most dazzling description of the mystical experience given to us by the Bhagavad Gita, **India's greatest literary monument.**

Source: *The Eye of Shiva: Eastern Mysticism And Science*
by Amaury de Riencourt

While witnessing the first Atomic bomb explosion at the Trinity Test in New Mexico on July 16, 1945 Oppenheimer emotionally exclaimed two couplets from the Bhagavad Gita: 'If the radiance of a thousand suns were to burst at once into the sky, that would be like the splendor of the mighty one. Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.'

Eminent American theoretical physicist, largely acclaimed for reviving the interest in Einstein's General Relativity after World War II. He is known for linking the term **Black Hole** to objects with gravitational collapse and coining terms **Quantum Foam**, **Neutron moderator wormhole**, and **It from Bit**. He worked on the *Manhattan Project* and helped the Government to design and build the **Hydrogen Bomb**. Wheeler later occupied the chair that had been previously held by Albert Einstein.



1911-2008

John Archibald Wheeler

One has the feeling that the thinkers of the East knew it all, and if we could only translate their answers into our language we would have the **answers to all our questions.**

Source: *Understanding Wisdom* by Erich Capra



It is curious that people like **Schrödinger, Niels Bohr, Oppenheimer** are Upanishad scholars.

Source: *Indian Concepts of the Mind* by Sarbal Gupta



My wonderful mentor, **Niels Bohr**, had gone into deep interest into the Upanisads.
I like to think that someone will trace out how the **deepest thinking of India** made its way to Greece and from there to the philosophy of our times.

Source: *Understanding Schopenhauer through the Prism of Indian Culture* by Michael Gerhard, Arati Barua



1770-1831

One of the greatest German philosophers, and an important figure of German Idealism. His major achievement is a distinctive articulation of Idealism. His *Historicist* and *Idealist* account of the total reality as a whole revolutionized European philosophy. His philosophical works provided the theoretical frameworks and conceptual blueprints which were influential in the creation and formation of government structures. Hegel influenced many thinkers and writers, such as *Theodor W. Adorno*, *Karl Barth*, *Bauer*, *Karl Marx*, *Bosanquet*, *Bradley*, *Simone de Beauvoir*, *Judith Butler*, *Benedetto Croce*, *Jacques Derrida*, *Friedrich Engels*, *Ludwig Feuerbach*, *Paul Charles Aymard Sartre*, *Giovanni Gentile*, *Søren Aabye Kierkegaard*, *Herbert Marcuse* et al.

Friedrich Hegel

India is the land of dreams. India had always dreamt – more of the **Bliss** that is **man's final goal**. And this has helped India to be more creative in history than any other nation. Hence the effervescence of myths and legends, religions, and philosophies, music, and dances and the different styles of architecture.

Source: *A Survey of Hinduism* by Klaus K. Klostermaier

It strikes everyone, in beginning to form an acquaintance with the treasures of Indian literature, that a land so rich in intellectual products and those of the **profoundest order of thought.**

Source: *The Philosophy of History* - by Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel



India has created a special momentum in world history **as a country to be searched for.**

Source: *A Survey of Hinduism* - by Klaus K. Klostermaier



Without being known too well, India has existed for millennia in the imagination of the Europeans as a **wonderland**. Its fame, which it has always had with regard to its treasures, both its natural ones, and in particular, **its wisdom, has lured men there.**

Source: *Contesting the master narrative*,
by Jeffrey Cox, Shelton Stromquist



1817-62

Great American essayist, poet, philosopher, and historian. He met Ralph Waldo Emerson and followed **Transcendentalism** advocated by him. Thoreau was also a devout abolitionist, who constantly attacked the *Fugitive Slave Law*. He wrote volumes of books, articles, essays, journals and poetry, and is remembered for his writings on natural history and philosophy. His philosophy of **Civil disobedience** had an impact on the political ideologies and actions of successive generations of great icons, such as, Leo Tolstoy, William Butler Yeats, Bernard Shaw, Ernest Hemingway, Walt Whitman, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, John Kennedy.

Henry David Thoreau

In the morning I bathe my intellect in the stupendous and cosmogonical philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita, and in comparison with which **our modern world and its literature seem puny and trivial.**

Source: *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau - Walden*

*

One sentence of Vedas is worth the
State of Massachusetts
many times over.

Source: *The Journal of Henry David Thoreau*

In the Indian ancient scriptures the
idea of man is quite illimitable and
sublime. He is at length lost in the
Supreme Entity himself.

Source: The Upanishads

Walden

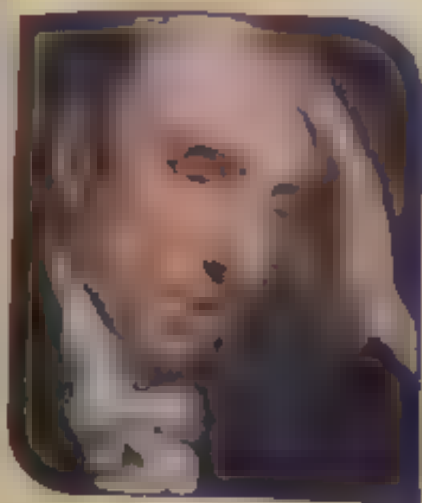


Whenever I have read any part of the Vedas, I have felt
that some unearthly and unknown light illuminated me. In
the great teaching of the Vedas, there is **no touch of
sectarianism**. It is of all ages, climes and nationalities
and is **the royal road for the attainment of
the Great Knowledge.**

When I am at it, I feel that I am under
the spangled heavens of a summer night.

Source: The Upanishads

by Darlena L. Orange, Gary Dolowitz



1770-1850

Very celebrated English romantic poet and thinker. He was an avid reader from his childhood, and in 1787 he published a sonnet in 'The European Magazine'. In 1798, he published *Lyrical Ballads*, with Samuel Coleridge and helped launch the Romantic Age in English Literature. That same year, he started working on his magnum opus, *The Prelude*, a semi-autobiographical poem of his early years. Wordsworth was Britain's Poet Laureate from 1843 to his death.

William Wordsworth

As sound – blithe race! whose mantles were bedecked
With golden grasshoppers, in sign that they
Had sprung, like those bright creatures, from the soil
Whereon their endless generations dwelt.
But stop! – these theoretic fancies jar
On serious minds: then, as the Hindoos draw
Their holy Ganges from a skiey fount,
Even so deduce the stream of human life,
From seats of power divine; and hope, or trust,
That our existence winds her stately course Beneath the sun,
like Ganges, to make part,
Of a living ocean; or, to sink engulfed,
Like Niger, in impenetrable sands,
And utter darkness: thought which may be faced,
Though comfortless!.....

Source: *The complete poetical works of William Wordsworth*

American essayist, lecturer, poet and Unitarian Minister who led the transcendentalist movement in the mid-nineteenth century. He was a persistent critic of pressures of society and disseminated his views through lectures and essays. His well-known works are *Self-Reliance*, *The Over Soul*, *Circles*, *The Poet and Experience*, which inspired intellectuals like Thoreau, Nietzsche, James, Armand, Goldman, Proust and Bloom.



1803-1882

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Vedas haunt me. In them I have found eternal compensation, unfathomable power, unbroken peace.

Source: *The Commemorative Sanskrit Series* 2003 Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan

*

I owed a magnificent day to the Bhagavad Gita. It was as if an empire spoke to us, nothing small or unworthy, but large, serene, consistent, the voice of an old intelligence which in another age and climate had pondered and thus disposed of the same questions which exercise us.

Source: *The Bhagavad Gita* by Dave Deluca

A great writer Thomas Carlyle to Emerson: The Bhagavad Gita is a most inspiring book. It has brought comfort and consolation to my life. I hope it will do the same to you. Read it.

All science is transcendental, or else passes away. Botany is now acquiring the right theory – the avatars of **Brahman** will presently be the **text-books of natural history.**

Source: *Autobiography of a Yogi* - by Paramhansa Yogananda

The Indian teaching, through its clouds of legends, has yet a simple and grand religion, like a queenly countenance seen through a rich veil. It teaches to speak truth, love others, and to dispose trifles. **The East is grand — and makes Europe appear the land of trifles, all is soul and the soul is the Almighty.**

source: *The West looks at India* - by Krishnanand Joshi

*

**Nature makes a Brahmin of me presently.
The transmigration of souls is no fable.**

source: *Autobiography of a YOGI* - by Paramhansa Yogananda

Samuel Clemens, more famously known by his pen-name, Mark Twain, was a celebrated American writer, publisher, humorist and entrepreneur. He is widely known for his novels *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, in which he depicts a fictional town, St. Petersburg, said to be inspired by his childhood port town of Hannibal, Missouri. His wit and satire earned him praises from critics and peers alike.



1835-1910

Mark Twain

India is the land of religions, cradle of human race, birthplace of human speech, grandmother of legend, great grandmother of tradition. The land that all men desire to see and having seen once even by a glimpse, would not give that glimpse for the shows of **the rest of the globe combined.**

Source: *Mark Twain on the lecture circuit* - by Paul Fatout

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Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are **treasured up in India.**

Source: *The dragon and the elephant: China, India and the new world order* by David Smith



1885-1962

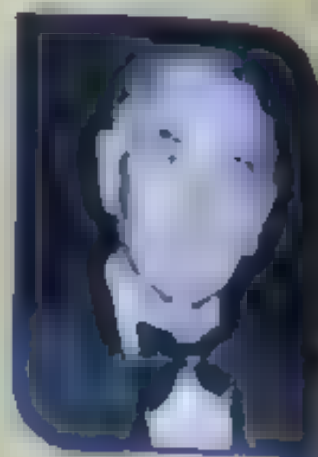
One of the greatest Danish Physicists and Philosophers of all time. He was born in Copenhagen and studied physics at the University of Copenhagen. Bohr made groundbreaking contributions to the fundamental understanding of Physics, most noted being the '**Bohr Model of the atom**'. He received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1922 for his contributions to understanding the atomic structure and **Quantum theory**. His other contributions include **Sommerfeld-Bohr theory**, **Bohr van Leeuwen theorem**, **Bohr-Kramers-Slater theory**.



I go into the
Upanishads
to ask questions.

Source *The Upanishads A New Translation* - by **Vernon Katz**
and **Thomas Egenes**

The famous UFO researcher was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, and later became an Australian citizen. He was fascinated by the technology and wisdom of the ancient civilizations and wrote numerous books on those themes. His works have been translated into more than 60 different languages. He was also a Freemason, which is a widespread, high-ranking men's movement, encouraging its members to think independently and benevolently.



1906- 2001

Andrew Tomas

The atomic structure of matter is mentioned in the Indian treatises Vaisesika and Nyaya. **The Yoga Vasishta says – there are vast worlds within the hollows of each atom, multifarious as the specks in a sunbeam which we have assumed now as true.**

*

The sacred writings of ancient India contain descriptions of weapons which resembled **Atomic bombs**. The Mausola Parva of Mahabharata speaks of a thunderbolt — 'a gigantic messenger of deaths' — which reduced to ashes whole armies and caused the hair and nails of the survivors to fall out. Pottery broke without any cause and the birds turned white. After a few hours all foodstuffs were poisoned. The ghastly picture of Hiroshima comes to mind when one reads this ancient text from India.

*Source: The Secret of The Indus – Riddles of Ancient Science
by Andrew Tomas*



1947 - 2012

Exceptionally erudite German writer, and researcher scholar who had undertaken in-depth studies of the ancient Indian literature from early young age. His contribution to the propagation of the yoga and spiritualism in the west was immense. He also translated the *Bhagavad Gita* and *Yoga Sutra of Patanjali*. He co-authored several books with his wife Brenda Feuerstein who herself is globally recognized Yoga and spiritual master.

Georg Feuerstein

From earliest times Indian man has shown a distinct predilection for philosophical speculation about the nature of man and the universe. Long before the rise of Greek thought, Indian sages grappled with the profoundest problems of philosophy. By the time the *Gita* was compiled, philosophical enquiry had already reached a noteworthy degree of maturity, complexity and coherence. The musings of the early Vedic seers had developed in depth and breadth as well as in clarity and precision.

Source: *Bhagavad Gita: An Introduction* by Georg Feuerstein

German writer, critic, philosopher, philologist and the most prominent founder of 'German Romanticism', and pioneer in comparative Indo-European linguistics and philology, he published revolutionary work on the 'Language and Wisdom of the Indians' that greatly inspired renowned linguists like Franz Bopp, August Schlegel, Max Muller, Michel Bréal, Ferdinand de Saussure, Leonard Bloomfield, Roman Jakobson, Frits Staal. Schlegel was also the founder of Indo-European studies and comparative linguistics



1772-1829

Friedrich von Schlegel

There is no language in the world, even Greek, which has the clarity and the **philosophical precision of Sanskrit**, and this great India is not only at the origin of everything, She is superior in everything.

Intellectually, religiously or politically and even the **Greek heritage seems pale in comparison.**

Source: *Arise O India* by Francois Gautier

*

The ancient Indians possessed a knowledge of the true God, conceived and expressed in **noble, clear and grand language**. Even the loftiest philosophy of the Europeans, the idealization of reason, as set forth by the **Greeks**, appears in comparison with the abundant light and vigor of oriental idealism, like a **feeble spark in the full flood of the noonday sun.**

Source: *The Philosophy of Language* by Maurice Fluégel



American science writer. He has been the Editor in Chief of *Science Digest*, *Longevity*, *VQ* and *Omni*, and has written for 'The New York Times' and 'The Wall Street Journal'. He authored 'Lost Discoveries: The Ancient Roots of Modern Science' and co-authored 'The God Particle'. He has co-authored many books with his wife as well. His 1997 article in *The Atlantic* titled "Zero", about the missing year between 1 AD and 1 BC, grabbed much attention.

Dick Teresi

Twenty-four centuries before Isaac Newton, the Hindu Rig-Veda asserted that gravitation held the universe together. The Sanskrit speaking Aryans subscribed to the idea of a spherical earth in an era when the Greeks believed in a flat one. The Indians of the fifth century A.D. calculated the age of the earth as **4.3 billion years**; scientists in 19th century England were convinced it was 100 million years.

*

The ancient Indians, long before Copernicus, knew that the earth revolved around the sun and, a thousand years before Kepler, **knew that the orbits of the planets were elliptical.** They developed the use of zero and negative numbers perhaps a thousand years before these concepts were accepted in Europe. They also invented a nascent form of calculus centuries before Leibniz invented calculus in Europe.

Source: *Lost Discoveries: The Ancient Roots of Modern Science* by Dick Teresi

Indian astronomers flirted with, at least,

heliocentrism

and a theory of gravitation one thousand years earlier than these concepts were articulated by

Copernicus, Galileo and Newton.



The **Aryabhatiya** was translated into Latin in the thirteenth century. Through this translation European mathematicians eventually learned methods for calculating the squares of triangles and the volumes of spheres, as well as square and cube roots. Explanations about the cause of eclipses and the sun being the source of moonlight may not have caused much excitement in Europe when astronomers there finally read the treatise, since by then they had learned of these things through the investigations of Copernicus and Galileo. But Aryabhata had conceptualized these ideas a thousand years before the Europeans.



Indian could conceive of the universe **in terms of billions** rather than in terms of the thousands of years prevalent in early Western culture.



The Indians came closest to modern ideas of **atomism, quantum physics, and other current theories.**

India developed very early, enduring atomist theories of matter.

Possibly Greek atomistic thought was influenced by India,

via the Persian civilizations. The Rig-Veda, dating somewhere between 2000 and 1500 B.C., is the first Indian literature to set down ideas resembling universal natural laws. Cosmic Law is connected with cosmic light, specifically with Brahman.

Book Forest



John Stewart Bell

One of the leading Irish born physicists and philosophical thinkers of the twentieth century His **Bell's Theorem** has been held as an important discovery of modern time. He also worked for CERN, Geneva, and his other achievements include **Bell State, Chiral Anomaly, Bell's Spaceship Paradox, Quantum Entanglement, Hidden Variable Theories.** Bell's '**Speakable and Unspeakable in Quantum Mechanics**' has been considered one of the most significant contributions to understand Quantum physics.

JOHN STEWART BELL

Is it not good to know what follows from what, even if it is not necessary FAPP?

[FAPP is Bell's disparaging abbreviation of "for all practical purposes"]

Suppose for example that quantum mechanics were found to resist precise formulation.

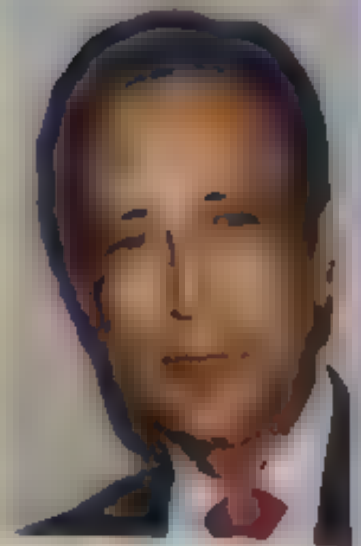
Suppose that when formulation beyond FAPP is attempted, we find an unmovable finger obstinately pointing outside the subject, to the mind of the observer, to the **Indian scriptures**, to God, or even only Gravitation?

Would that not be very, very interesting?

Quoted from Physics Today, 1984, Vol. 35, No. 10, p. 31

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An acclaimed Indian-born American Quantum physicist, and co-inventor of **excimer laser** (used in LASIK eye surgery) which has treated over 15 million people worldwide. Best known for his '**Code Name God**' and '**The Cosmic Detective**'. For his significant scientific contributions, Dr. Bhaumik has been elected as a **Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers** as well as the **American Physical Society**. He also established **Mani Bhaumik Educational Foundation** to provide financial assistance to the competent students.



1931



Modern cosmology and quantum field theory have brought us the stunning discovery that the abstract primary source of everything in this universe is surprisingly ingrained in each minutest stitch of the fabric of space of this immensely vast cosmos, thereby upholding and administering its fundamental aspects. Our ever changing physical reality is a direct manifestation of the timeless source. Vedas and Upanishads of Indic tradition also tell us that the abstract Brahman is the creator and the physical universe is the creation.

*

The creator Brahman is always present everywhere and in everything. The same quantum physics, which runs our cell phone, computer and Internet, is amazingly revealing that the fundamental nature of reality described in the Vedas and Upanishads is firmly anchored in Modern science.

Source: *Tatva Institute (Mysteries Interwoven between Ancient Indian Wisdom and Modern Science)* <http://www.tatva.org/india/>



1856-1939

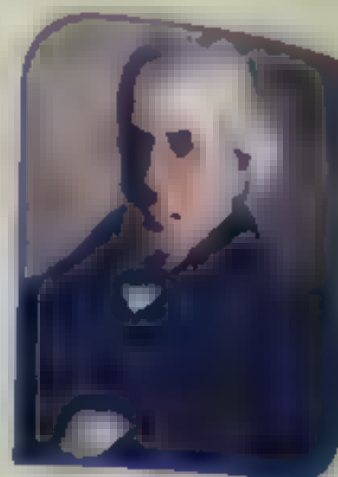
One of the most celebrated Irish poets, dramatists and essayists of the twentieth century. Yeats helped with the founding of the Abbey Theatre and served as an Irish senator during the latter part of his life. In 1923, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. Highly inspired by the Vedanta philosophy, he also co-translated *The Ten Principal Upanishads*.

William Butler Yeats

It was only my first meeting with the
Indian philosophy
that confirmed my vague
speculations and seemed at once
logical and boundless.

Source: *India and World Civilization* by D. P. Sinha

Renowned French philosopher, educational reformer, and historian whose systematic **eclecticism**, a school of French philosophy that combined elements of German idealism and Scottish realism made him the best-known French thinker, and inspired other philosophers like – Theodore Simon, Pierre-Joseph, Jules Barthelemy, Charles de Remusat, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Jules Simon. Cousin helped revolutionise the French primary school system.



1792-1867

Victor Cousin

When we read with attention the poetical and philosophical monuments of India, **we discover there are endless truths**, and truths so profound, and which make such a contrast with the meanness of the results at which European genius has sometimes stopped, that we are constrained to bend the knee before the **philosophy of the East**, and to see in this cradle of the human race, **the native land of the highest philosophy.**

Source: Hindustan and other articles by Mahatma Gandhi, edited by Anthony Parel



Max Muller

Famous German philosopher, writer and philologist Muller was considered the foremost Sanskrit scholar of his day, translating vast amounts of ancient literature into English. His belief that the study of the earliest documents regarding Vedic culture would provide clues about the development of subsequent European religions led him to study the ancient texts of the Vedic scriptures.

Prof. E. Max Muller

The conception of the world as deduced from the Veda, and **chiefly from the Upanishads, is indeed astounding.**

Source: The Sacred Books of the Hindus, Vol. 1, by Max Muller



What distinguishes the Vedanta philosophy from all other philosophies is that it is at the same time a religion and a philosophy.

Source: The Vedanta Philosophy, by Max Muller



The earliest of these Upanishads will always maintain a place in the philosophic literature of the world among the most **astounding products of the human mind.**

Source: The Upanishads, by Wendell Thomas

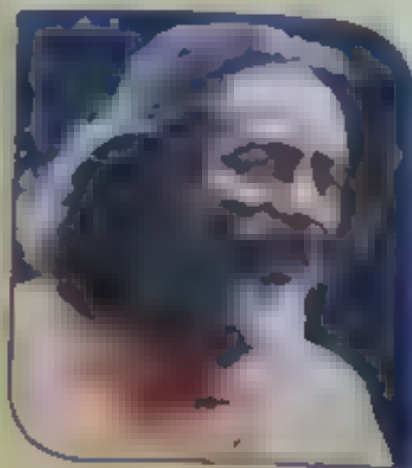
If I were asked under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered over the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions of some of them which well deserve the attention even of those who have studied **Plato and Kant**, I should point to India. And if I were to ask myself from what literature we who have been nurtured almost exclusively on the thoughts of Greeks and Romans, and of the Semitic race, the Jewish, may draw the corrective which is most wanted in order to make our inner life more perfect, more comprehensive, more universal, in fact more truly human a life — again I should point to India.

English Version of the Sanskrit text by authority through original text by
by Dorothy Matilda Figuera



It is surely astounding that such a system as the Vedanta should have been slowly elaborated by the indefatigable and intrepid thinkers of India thousands of years ago, a system that even now makes us feel giddy, as in mounting last steps of the swaying spire of a Gothic cathedral. None of our philosophers, not excepting **Heraclitus, Plato, Kant or Hegel**, has ventured to erect such a spire, never frightened by storms or lightning. Stone follows on stone after regular succession after once the first step has been made, after once it has been clearly seen that in the beginning there can have been One, as there will be but **One** in the end, whether we call it **Atman or Brahman**.

Authorised English Version of the Sanskrit text by Dr. Max Muller



1915-1973

A renowned British philosopher, writer and speaker who familiarised the Western people with Eastern philosophy and Zen Buddhism. Watts, inspired by Ancient Hindu Vedas and Buddhism, wrote many books related to Eastern and Western religion, human consciousness and aesthetics. *The way of Zen*, and *Psychotherapy East and West* being the most noted. He also founded the radio series, **Way beyond the West**, at Pacific Radio California, which is one of the longest-running radio shows.

Alan Watts

It is, indeed, a remarkable circumstance that when Western civilization discovers **'Relativity Theory'** it applies it to the manufacture of atom-bombs, whereas Oriental civilization applies it to the development of **new states of consciousness.**

Source: *The Legacy of Asia and Western Man* by Alan Watts

*

To the philosophers of India, however, **'Theory of Relativity'** is no new discovery, just as the concept of light years is no matter for astonishment to people used to thinking of time in millions of kalpas, (one kalpa is about 4,320,000 years).

Source: *Spiritual Practices of India* by Frederic Spiegelberg

Illustrious Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who founded *Analytical Psychology*, often known as **Jungian Psychology**. While working as a research scientist at the famous Burgholzi Hospital, the Viennese founder of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud learned of him, and the two developed a lengthy correspondence. This relationship is dramatically depicted in the 2011 movie, **A Dangerous Method**. Jung formulated some of the best-known theories in psychology, including *Synchronicity*, *Archetypal Phenomena*, *the Collective Unconsciousness* and *Extroversion and Introversion*.



1875-1961

Carl Jung

No system of thought or body control is more widely known today than Yoga. When a religious method recommends itself as 'scientific', it can be certain of its public in the West. Yoga fulfills this expectation. Quite apart from the charm of the new and the fascination of the half-understood, there is good cause for Yoga to have many adherents. It offers the possibility of controllable experience and thus satisfies the scientific need for 'facts'; and, besides this, by reason of its breadth and depth, its venerable age, **its doctrine and method which include every phase of life, it promises undreamed of possibilities.**

Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst by Nand A Palkhivala

As we study the philosophy of the Upanishads, the impression grows on us that the attainment of this path is not exactly the simplest of tasks. Our Western superciliousness in the face of these Indian insights is a mark of our barbarian nature, which has not the remotest inkling of **their extraordinary depth and astonishing psychological accuracy.**

Source: *Psychology of the East* by Carl Jung

*

Great and enduring civilizations like those of the Indian and the Chinese were built upon this foundation and developed from it a discipline of self-knowledge which they brought to a high pitch of refinement both in philosophy and practice.

Source: *Hindu Culture* by K. Guha Das

*

We have not yet clearly grasped the fact that Western Theosophy is an **amateurish imitation of the East.**

Source: *Modern man in search of a soul* by Carl Jung, 1916

Germany's supreme poet, dramatist and philosopher is often regarded as the **Father of German Literature**. His works include epic and lyrical poetry, prose and verse dramas, literary and aesthetic criticism and writings on scientific topics. He was an esteemed member of the Duke's Council and implemented many administrative and policy reforms. Heavily influenced by the works of **Kalidasa**, Goethe's literary creations later inspired Iqbal, Lamarck, Darwin, Hegel, Schelling, Schopenhauer, Carlyle, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche and Tesla.



1749-1832

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

When first time I came upon this inexhaustible work,

SAKUNTALA — It aroused such enthusiasm in me and so held me that I could not stop studying it. I even felt impelled to make the impossible attempt to bring it in some form to the German stage.

These efforts were fruitless but they made me so thoroughly acquainted with this most valuable work, it represented such an epoch in my life. I so absorbed it, that for thirty years I did not look at either the English or the German version. It is only now that I understand the enormous impression that work made

on me at an earlier age.

Source: Letters from Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

*

Wouldst thou the young years blossoms and the fruits of its decline,
And all by which the soul is charmed, enraptured, feasted, fed,
Wouldst thou the earth and Heaven itself in one sole name combine?
I name thee, O Sakuntala! And all at once is said.

Source: The Waverers of the East, by Sutapas Bhattacharya

*Sakuntala is Sanskrit drama by Kalidasa which was translated into English by Sir William Jones and again into Germany by George Forster.



1736-93

Notable French astronomer, a renowned mathematician, freemason and an influential political leader. He was active in politics during the early part of the *French Revolution* and was executed by guillotine during the *Reign of Terror*, after refusing to testify against Marie Antoinette. Bailly served as the first Mayor of Paris from 1789 to 1791 and is noted for his computation of an orbit for **Halley's Comet**.

Jean-Sylvain Bailly

The Indian systems of astronomy are by far the oldest and that from which the Egyptians, Greek, Romans and --- even the Jews derived from the Hindus their knowledge.

Source: The Secret Doctrine Volume 3 by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

*

The motion of the stars calculated by the Indian before some 4500 years vary not even a single minute from the modern tables of Cassini and Meyer.

*Source: World As I See by Sri Theosophical Society
by B. Vithal Shetty, Dr Vithal B Shetty*

Great English mathematician and philosopher, best known as the founder of Process Philosophy. He spent time writing on mathematics, logic and physics. He co-authored **Principia Mathematica** with *Bertrand Russell*, considered as one of the most notable works on mathematical logic in the twentieth century, his gift to the world.

Later, he diverted his attention to the philosophy of science, and a collection of his works was published as *Process & Reality* (1929), which is considered the foundation text of process philosophy.



1861-1947

Alfred North Whitehead

Vedanta is the most
impressive metaphysics
 the human mind
 has conceived.

SOURCE: *Travelling Palace: 5 MCO-DMT and the Sonnet in Desert* Edited by James Oroc



1940-1982

Noted American theoretical physicist. He majors in the study of Quantum Physics and Consciousness. He also argues for retro-causality - i.e. the mind is crucial to the structure of matter. He was a prominent member of the Fundamental Physics Group, an informal group of physicists in California. His publications include *Space-Time and Beyond II*, *Destiny Matrix*, and *Super Cosmos*.

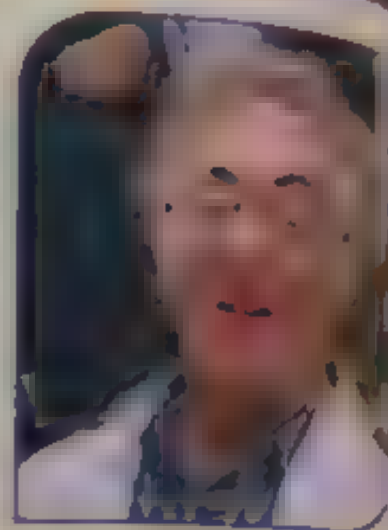
Jack Sarfatti

I suspect that general **Relativity** and **Quantum theory** are two complimentary aspects of a deeper theory that will involve a kind of **cosmic consciousness**.

The cosmic consciousness or
the **Mahat** of **India's**
Samkhya Philosophy
is the basis of entire creation.

— Michael Talbot

Born in Wales, Josephson is a theoretical physicist and professor Emeritus of physics at the University of Cambridge. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics in 1973 for his prediction of the **Josephson Effect**. His pioneering work on **Superconductivity and Quantum Tunneling** gave him widespread recognition. In the early 1970's he took up **transcendental meditation**, developed by Mahanishi Mahesh Yogi and started exploring the relationship between **Quantum Mechanics and Consciousness**.



1940 -

Brian David Josephson

The Vedanta and the Sankhya hold the key to the laws of mind and thought process which are co-related to the **Quantum Field**, i.e. the operation and distribution of particles at atomic and molecular levels.

Source: *God Talks With Arjuna* by Paramahansa Yogananda

Indian philosophy shows the relationship between **mind and matter**. Mind as seen in Indian philosophy enables one to describe subjective reality or the process of decision making as a wave function in terms of quantum physics.

Source: *Vedanta Dharma and Science* by Pandharinatha Prabhu



1917-92

One of the world's greatest quantum mechanical physicists, he contributed to theoretical physics, philosophy of mind, and neuropsychology. His other achievements are Bohm-diffusion, Bohm interpretation, De Broglie-Bohm theory, Bohm Quantum potential, Aharonov-Bohm effect Holographic paradigm, Holomovement, Holonomic Brain theory, Quantum mind. He was deeply influenced by ancient Indian wisdom and lectured worldwide on the meaning of **Physics and Consciousness** and these erudite ideas transmitted from Indian philosophy.

David J. Bohm

One would say Atman is more like the meaning. But then what is meant would be Brahman, I suppose; the identity of **consciousness** and **cosmos**.

This claims that the meaning and what is meant are ultimately one, which is the phrase

'Atman equals Brahman'
of classical Indian philosophy.

*Source: Quantum explanations. Essays in honour of David Bohm
by Basil J. Hiley, & David Peat*

A French scholar, linguist and prolific writer, highly inspired by ancient Indian literature. He lived in India for seven years (1755-1761) and learnt Sanskrit and Persian. He is best known for translating the Upanishads into Latin from Dara Shikoh's Persian translation, which later gave new clarity of wisdom to the European philosophers, such as, Arthur Schopenhauer, Friedrich Von Schlegel, Friedrich Von Schelling, Max Muller, Paul Deussen and Friedrich Nietzsche. He is widely credited with awakening the interest of Eastern languages and thought amongst Westerners.



1731-1804

Anquetil Duperron

If the British ...neglect any longer to enrich Europe's scholars with the Sanskrit scriptures...they will bear the shame of having sacrificed honor, probity, and humanity to the vile love for gold and money, without human knowledge having derived the least lustre, the least growth from their conquests.

— *The Invasion that Never was*, by Michel Danino

Prince Dara Shikoh, the eldest son of Emperor Shah Jahan, having been highly inspired by the ancient wisdom, had undertaken the work of translating the Upanishads into Persian. He had assembled some language experts for the task and completed it in the year 1657.

But it was only after 118 years the Persian translation saw the light of the day. In 1775 Anquetil Duperron received a French (Dara Shikoh's) manuscript of the Persian translation from M. de la Porte, sent to him by a French scholar M. Gauthier who was at the court of Shah Jahan. Published in 1784, it was a landmark in the history of Indian literature. It was the first Latin translation of the Upanishads, which immediately met with the approval and set off a new awakening in the Eastern world in Europe.



1912 - 99

A highly renowned Japanese research scholar who studied Sanskrit and Pali languages. A Professor at the University of Tokyo, he was the first to translate the entire **Pali Triptaka** into Japanese. Credited with 170 monographs, he received the highly prestigious Imperial Award of the Japan Academy for his 'The History of Early Vedanta Philosophy'. He also established **The Eastern Institute** in Tokyo to disseminate the Eastern Wisdom.

Hajime Nakamura

Cultural relation between India and Japan
can be traced back to very early times.

Without Indian influence Japanese culture
would not be what it is today.

Indians conducted far more elaborate speculations than the Westerners of antiquity and the Middle Ages with respect to the theory of numbers, the analysis of psychological phenomena, and the study of linguistic structures. The Indians are highly rationalistic, insofar as their ideal is to recognize eternal laws concerning past, present, and future.

The idea of tolerance and concession is based on admitting the compatibility of many different philosophical views of the world. The Indians are prone to tolerate the co-existence of philosophical thoughts of various types from the metaphysical viewpoint.

From Japan and Indian Aspects, Hajime Nakamura

Austrian born American physicist and author a founding director of the Centre for **Ecoliteracy** in Berkeley USA. Capra encourages a holistic approach to life in his books, criticising the reductionist approach. *The Tao of Physics*, *Green Politics* and *The Web of Life* are some of his international best sellers. Capra has received various awards such as the Gold Medal of the UK Systems Society, the Neil Postman Award, the Medal of the President of the Italian Republic, the Leonardo da Vinci Medallion of Honour et al.



1939

Fritjof Capra

The two foundations of twentieth-century physics, **Quantum** theory and **Relativity theory** — both force us to see the world very much in the way a Hindu, Buddhist...sees it.

*

The scale of this ancient myth is indeed staggering; it has taken the human mind more than two thousand years to come up again with a similar concept.

by Fritjof Capra

Capra challenges much of modern and modern by demonstrating striking parallels between ancient Hindu traditions of thought and the theories of twentieth-century physics.



1877-1962

Great German poet, novelist, and painter who was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in 1946. As a young boy, he was rebellious and spent time in a mental institution. After working at a few odd jobs, he realised that he could earn a living as a writer. His most popular works include *The Glass Bead Game*, *Siddhartha*, *Steppenwolf*, *Narcissus*, *Goldmund* and *Demian*.

Herman Hesse

India is not only a country and something geographical, but **the home and the youth of the soul**, the everywhere and nowhere, **the oneness of all times.**

Source: Hermann Hesse: A collection of criticism



The marvel of the Gita is its truly **beautiful revelation of life's wisdom** which enables philosophy to blossom into religion.

Source: Sacred Book of Yoga: Wisdom from India - the East
Scripture: Teacher by Dave Deluca

Eminent English prolific novelist, journalist, sociologist and philosopher, who was fluent in many genres. His early specialisation was in Biology and his thinking was woven mainly around a Darwinian context. Wells is best known for his science fictions, and the most noted works include *The Time Machine*, *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, *The Invisible Man* and *The War of the Worlds*. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature four times.



1866-1946

H.G. Wells

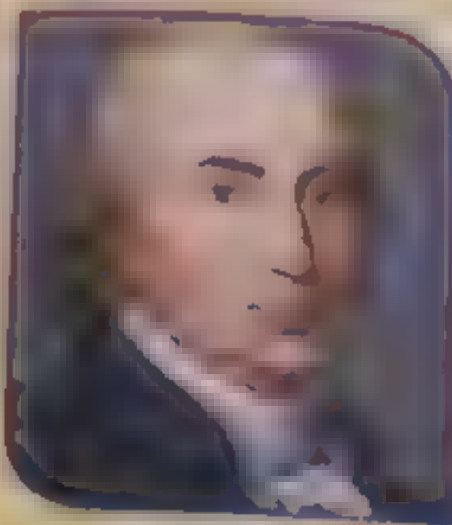
The history of India for many centuries had been happier, less fierce, and more dreamlike than any other history. In these favorable conditions, they built a character - meditative and peaceful and — **a nation of philosophers such as could nowhere have existed except in India.**

Source: *The Outline of History* by H.G. Wells

*

In Indian wisdom, **tolerance** is not simply a matter of policy but **an article of faith.**

Source: *The Great Minds of India* by Sunil Sehgal



1744-1803

Great German philosopher, theologian, poet, and literary critic. Herder was one of the first to argue that language contributes to shaping the pattern of which a community thinks. Also, he expressed ideas of patriotism and nationality in his works. Extremely inspired by Indian wisdom, works of Kalidasa in particular, his later literary works influenced L'udovik Stur, F. Hegel, Wilhelm Dilthey, Friederich Nietzsche, Johann Goethe, August Schlegel, Friederich Schlegel, Wilhelm von Humboldt, J. S. Mill, Franz Boas.

Johann Gottfried Herder

Mankind's origins can be traced to India, where the human mind got the first shapes of wisdom and virtue with a simplicity, strength and sublimity which has — frankly spoken, nothing, nothing at all equivalent in **our philosophical, cold European world.**

Source: *Sacred Books of the East* by Dave Deluca

*

Where Shakuntala lives with her vanished boy,
Where Dushmanta receives her anew, anew
from the Gods, Hail to thee, o holy land, and Thou,
leader of sounds, Voice of the heart, uplift me often
thither through celestial space.

Source: *Herder's poem on the reception of Shakuntala*

Prolific American mystic poetess and
journalist. She was instrumental in the
establishment of the **Rosicrucian**
Movement in twentieth-century America
and is best known for her '*Poems and
Passion*'.



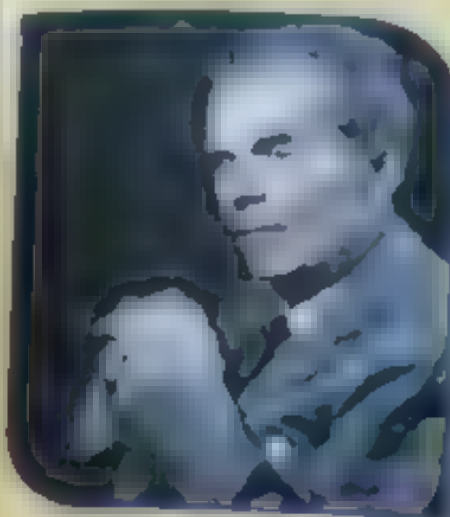
1850-1919

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

India — the land of Vedas, the remarkable
works contain not only religious ideas for a
perfect life, but also facts which
science has proved true.

**Electricity, radium, electronics,
airship, all are known to the seers
who founded the Vedas.**

... the ... of ... by Prakash Veereshwar



1894-1963

Eminent English writer, novelist and philosopher who authored approximately fifty books. Huxley was involved with the founding of the Vedanta Society of Southern California, which paved the way for him to explore the mind, spirituality, and meditation. As a result, he experimented with psychedelic drugs and wrote 'The Doors of Perception' narrating his experience. Huxley was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature seven times. His works inspired great scholars like Orwell, Houellebecq, and Houston Smith.

Aldous Huxley

The Bhagavad-Gita is the most systematic statement of spiritual evolution of endowing value to mankind.

The Gita is one of the clearest and most comprehensive summaries of the spiritual thoughts ever to have been made.

Source: Sacred Jewels of Yoga by Dave Deluca

*

The Perennial Philosophy is expressed most succinctly in the Sanskrit formula,

'tat tvam asi' (That art you);

the Atman, or immanent eternal Self, is one with

Brahman, the Absolute Principle of all

existence; and the last end of every human being, is to

discover the fact for himself, to find out who he really is.

Source: The Complete Idiot's Guide to Hinduism by Linda Johnson

Belgian playwright, poet, and essayist, he received the Nobel prize in Literature in 1911 in appreciation of his dramatic work. His first play, *Princess Maleine* attracted enormous praise from literary critics and he became a public figure overnight. In the following years, he wrote a series of Symbolist plays, which formed a major part of the Symbolist Movement. Main themes in his works were the meaning of life and death.



1862-1949

Count Maurice Maeterlinck

Have we not here the whole of **Darwinian evolution** confirmed by geology and foreseen at least **6,000 years** ago? On the other hand, is this not the theory of **Akasa** which we more clumsily call the **ether**, the sole source of all substances, to which our science is returning? Is it true that the recent theories of Einstein deny **ether**, supposing that radiant energy — visible light, for example — is propagated independently through a space that is an absolute void. But the scientific ether is not precisely the Indian **Akasa** which is much more subtle and immaterial being a sort of spiritual element or **divine energy**, **space uncreated, imperishable and infinite.**

Source: *The Great Secret* - by Maurice Maeterlinck

We cannot tell how the religion of the Hindus came into being. When we become aware of it, we find it already complete in its broad outlines, its main principles. Not only is it complete, but the **farther back we go, the more perfect it is**, the more unadulterated, the more closely related to the loftiest speculations of our modern agnosticism.

Source: *The Great Secret* by - Maurice Maeterlinck

The greatest French mathematician, philosopher, astronomer and physicist whose works contributed to the development of mathematics, statistics, physics, and astronomy. He formulated the **Laplace's Equation** and pioneered the Laplace Transform which is fundamental in mathematical physics. The **Laplacian Differential Operator**, which is widely used in mathematics is also named after him; he was one of the firsts to postulate the ideas of **Black Holes** and **Gravitational collapse**. Known as *Newton of France*, Laplace is celebrated as one of the greatest scientists of all time.



1749-1827

Pierre Simon de Laplace

It is India that gave us the ingenious method of expressing all numbers by ten symbols, each receiving a value of position as well as an absolute value, a profound and important idea which appears so simple to us now that we ignore its true merit. But its very simplicity, the great ease which it has lent to all computations, puts our arithmetic in the first rank of useful inventions, and we shall appreciate the **grandeur of this achievement** the more when we remember that it escaped the genius of **Archimedes** and **Appollinius**, two of the greatest men produced by antiquity.

Source: India and South Asia - by James H K. Norton



1934 96

Exceptionally brilliant American astronomer, cosmologist, astrophysicist, astrobiologist, and author. His most significant contribution to science is research on **extra-terrestrial intelligence**. He assembled the first **physical messages** sent into space. Sagan published numerous scientific papers and wrote many popular science books: *The Dragons of Eden*, *Broca's Brain*, and *Pale Blue Dot*. He had also co-authored and narrated the award winning TV series **Cosmos: A Personal Voyage**.

Dr. Carl Sagan

The Hindu religion is the only one of the world's great faiths dedicated to the idea that the **COSMOS** itself undergoes an immense, indeed an **infinite number of deaths and rebirths**. It is the only religion in which the time scales **correspond to those of modern scientific cosmology**. Its cycles run from our ordinary day and night to a day and night of **Brahma, 8.64 billion** years long, longer than the age of the Earth or the Sun and about half the time since the **Big Bang**.

Source: *Cosmos* - by Dr Carl Sagan, Random House New York

British statesman, Viceroy of India
from 1899 to 1905 who later
became chancellor of
Oxford University



1859-1925

Lord Curzon

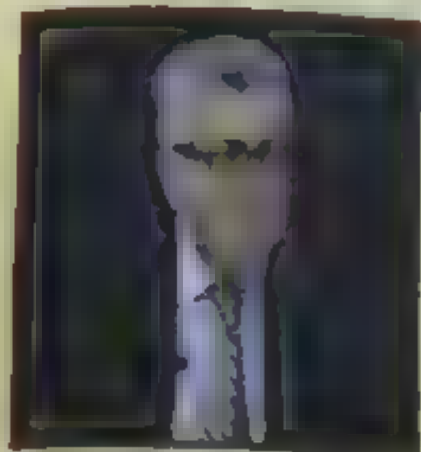
India has left a deeper mark upon the
history, the philosophy, and the religion of
mankind, **than any other terrestrial
unit in the universe.**

Source: *India in Bondage: Her Right to Freedom*
by Jabez T. Sunderland

*

**Powerful Empires existed and
flourished here in India while
Englishmen were still wandering painted in
the woods, and while the British colonies
were a wilderness and a jungle.**

Source: *India in Bondage: Her Right to Freedom* by Jabez T. Sunderland



1947 -

Eminent French author and historian of mathematics. He was a mathematics teacher in his early days and had undertaken in-depth studies and researches. His world-acclaimed book - 'From One to Zero: A Universal History of Numbers' have been translated into many languages and became international bestsellers. This landmark book has also been incorporated in American Scientist's list of **100 or so books that shaped a century of science.**

Georges Ifrah

It is clear how much we owe to **this brilliant civilization**, and not only in the field of arithmetic; by opening the way to the generalization of the concept of the number, the Indian scholars enabled the rapid development of mathematics and exact sciences. The discoveries of these men doubtless required much time and imagination, and above all a great ability for abstract thinking. These major discoveries took place within an environment which was at once **mystical, philosophical, religious, cosmological, mythological and metaphysical.**

Source: *The Universal History of Numbers* by Georges Ifrah

It is the ancient Indian culture that has regarded the science of numbers as the noblest of its arts.

A thousand years ahead of Europeans,
Indian savants knew that the
zero and infinity were mutually inverse notions.

*

In short, Indian science was born out of a mystical and religious culture and the etymology of the Sanskrit words used to describe numbers and the science of numbers bears witness to this fact.

*

The early passion which Indian civilization had for high numbers was a significant factor contributing to the discovery of the place-value system, and not only offered the Indians the incentive to go beyond the calculable physical world, but also led to an understanding of the notion of mathematical infinity itself.

Source: The Universal History of Numbers - by Georges Ifrah



1866-1944

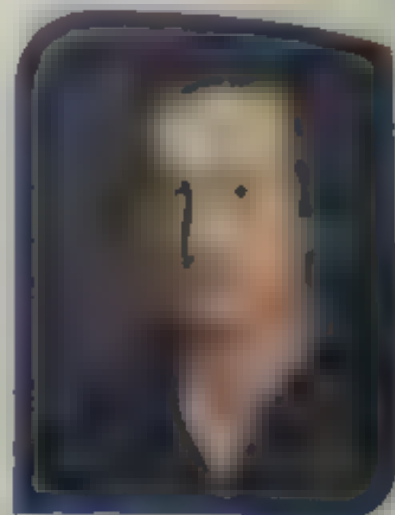
Great novelist, essayist, art historian and mystic from France. He made a significant contribution towards the democratization of the Theater. He was inspired and embraced the work of the ancient seers of India and was deeply moved by the **Vedanta philosophy**. Rolland was a life-long *pacifist* and was one of the few French scholars to remain so. He traveled to Moscow on the invitation of *Maxim Gorky* and met *Joseph Stalin*. He was also honored with the Nobel prize for literature in 1915.

Romain Rolland

Religious faith in the case of the Hinduism has never been allowed to run counter to scientific laws, moreover the former is never made a condition for the knowledge they teach, but there are always scrupulously careful to take into consideration the possibility that by reason **both the agnostic and atheist may attain truth in their own way.**

Source: *Vivekananda* by Romain Rolland

Very eminent German poet, journalist, essayist and literary critic. During his young days, he was part of the Young Germany movement, and his radical views led to constant censorship by the German authorities. As a result, he had to spend the last 25 years of his life as an expatriate in France. He is best known outside Germany for his early lyric poetry with remarkable prophetic insights.

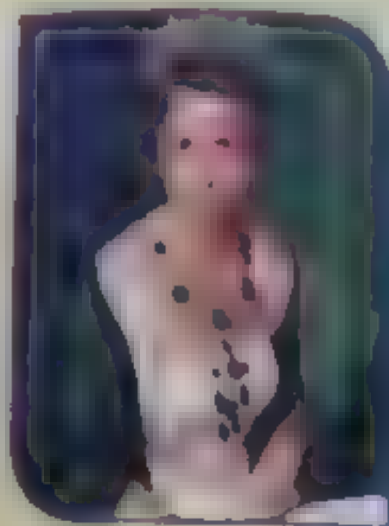


1797-1856

Heinrich Heine

The Portuguese, Dutch and English have been for a long time year after year, shipping home the treasures of India in their big vessels. We Germans have been all along been left to watch it. Germany would do likewise, but hers would be treasures of spiritual knowledge.

to: Satyapathi Radhakrishnan



1917-1981

Wife of King Paul of Greece and a very erudite research scholar of the advanced physics. She logically pointed out the inadequacy of the Modern science in explaining the metaphysics of the cosmic creation and order while she fully appreciated the ideas expounded in the ancient scriptures of India. Visited India in quest of the spiritual knowledge, she was always insistent that the realisation of the world-view is only possible through mediation and spiritual practices as also claimed by the modern scientists like Erwin Schrodinger, Julius Oppenheimer, David Bohm, Brian David Josephson.

Queen Frederika

Science has yet to catch up with what the seers in India had already understood over 2500 years ago.

While Greece is the country of my birth,
India is the country of my soul.

Source: A Newsletter of the Kumbh Kartavir Center of California and
From the new physics to Hindutva

*

It was my advanced research in physics that had started me on a spiritual quest. It culminated in me accepting the non-dualism or absolute monism of **Shankara** as my philosophy of life and Science.

Source: <http://www.kumbhkartavir.org> with Hindutva

In the nineteenth century, scientists had thought that the cosmos was made up of **NINETY-TWO** basic **ELEMENTS** such as hydrogen, oxygen and iron, which were indestructible. This implied that the universe had a diversity of independently existing materials.

However, during this century research had revealed that all elements were in fact made up of a **SINGLE ENERGY**. The cosmos was therefore intrinsically one, whether it appeared as a speck of dust, a tree, a Nobel Prize-winning genius or a black-hole beyond the galaxies. The differences were merely appearances. Our senses give us a knowledge of what is apparent,

but not of the underlying **one reality of the cosmos**. This one **ENERGY** which permeates the whole of creation was what Indian wisdom calls 'BAHMAN'.

Long before physics discovered it, Shankara had argued that the world of sense experience, that is the world of matter, was a world of appearance (maya), because at the root of each individual existence is the same energy which forms the **COSMOS**. The human self (atman) is ultimately not distinct from the universal self (brahman). Duality is illusion.

Reality is not dual, but ONE.

source: <https://www.storyofgreece.com/biography/frederika.htm>

* **Reality is not dual, but ONE** * — This idea of the ancient **UPANISADS** was later incorporated into the modern science by the modern physicists like **Erwin Schrödinger**, **David Bohm**, **David Josephson**, **Robert Julius Oppenheimer** etc.



1932-2018

Renowned Indo-Trinidadian-British writer, he received the Nobel prize in literature in 2001. He has been called 'A Master of Modern Prose' and has been awarded numerous prizes, including the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, the Somerset Maugham Award, the Booker Prize, and the David Cohen Prize for a lifetime's achievement in British literature.

V.S. Naipaul

The key Hindu concept of dharma – the right way, the sanctioned way, which all men must follow, according to their natures – is an elastic concept. At its noblest it combines self-fulfillment and truth to the self with the ideas of action as duty, **action as its own spiritual reward, man as a holy vessel.**

Source: *India: A Wounded Civilization* by V.S. Naipaul

The 44th President of the USA was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. He spent four years of his childhood in Indonesia. In 1988 Obama enrolled in Harvard Law School, and after graduation, he became a civil rights attorney and then a professor at the University of Chicago Law School (1992 to 2004). In 2004, he was elected to the US Senate and in 2008 elected as the President of USA. Also the recipient of the Nobel prize for peace in 2009, he is the first African American to have served as



1961

Barack Obama

My confidence in our shared future is grounded in my respect for India's treasured past — a civilization that has been shaping the world for thousands of years. Indians unlocked the intricacies of the human body and the vastness of our universe. And it is no exaggeration to say that our information age is rooted in Indian innovations — including the number zero.

India not only opened our minds, she expanded our moral imaginations — with religious texts that still summon the faithful to lives of dignity and discipline, with poet who imagined a future 'where the mind is without fear and the head is held high' — and with a man whose message of love and justice endures — the father of your nation, **Mahatma Gandhi**.

Source: Barack Obama speech in Indian parliament 2010



1889-1975

Very eminent British economic historian, philosopher and prolific writer. His lectures on various subjects influenced contemporary British society. His creative and research works were widely read and appreciated. Having a reputation for being a celebrated writer, his extensive research was published in twelve volumes from 1934 to 1961, titled as 'Study of History' and sold widely across the world. He was highly inspired by the ancient wisdom of India.

Arnold Joseph Toynbee

At this supremely dangerous moment in human history, the only way of salvation is the ancient Indian way. Here we have the attitude and spirit that can make it possible for the human race to grow together into a single family.

Source: *Relevance of environment: a critique on international relation theories*
by Narottam Gaan

*

So now we turn to India. This spiritual gift, that makes a man human, is still alive in Indian souls.

Go on giving the world Indian examples of it. Nothing else can do so much to help mankind to save itself from destruction.

Source: *Modern Language: Studywise Language Through Literature*
by Prasad, R.C.

Today, the western scientific progress has physically united the world. It has not only got rid of the 'space' factor, it has also equipped the various countries of the world with deadly arms. But they have not yet learnt the art of knowing and loving one another. **If we want to save humanity at this most critical juncture, the only option is the Indian approach.**

Source: *Hindutva is Universal love* - by Girish Chandra Mishra



1856-1950

Great Irish dramatist, a socialist spokesman, critic and leading figure in the twentieth-century theatre, Shaw received the Nobel Prize in Literature. His major literary works include *Man and Superman*, *Pygmalion* and *Saint Joan*. He is considered second only to Shakespeare among British dramatists, and the word **Shavian** represents his ideology.

Bernard Shaw

The Indian way of life provides the vision of the natural, real way of life. We western veil ourselves with unnatural masks. On the face of India are the tender expressions which carry the mark of the Creator's hand.

Source: *Hinduism: Path of the Ancient Wisdom* - by Hiro G. Badhani

★

The apparent multiplication of gods is bewildering at the first glance, but you soon discover that they are the same GOD. There is always one uttermost God who defies personification. This makes Hinduism the most tolerant religion in the world, because its one transcendent God includes all possible gods. In fact Hinduism is **so elastic and so subtle that the most profound methodist, and crudest idolater, are equally at home with it.**

Source: *Hinduism religion and way of life* - by Satyavrata Ramdas Patel

French nationalist historian. Although he was involved in politics during his youth, he was a man of letters and history for the most part. Michelet was the first historian to use and define the word *Renaissance* in his 1855 monumental work **Histoire de France** (*History of France*). Most of his writings were inspired by the *French Revolution*.

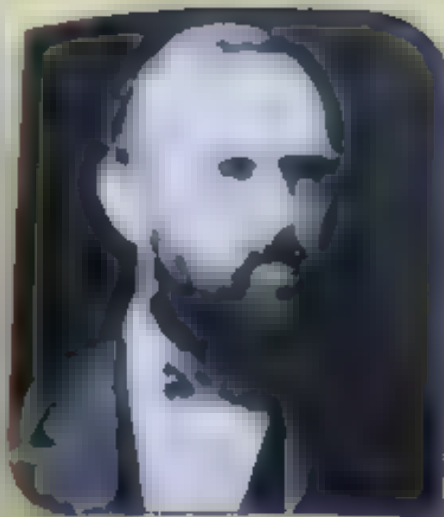


1798 -1874

Jules Michelet

Whoever has done or willed too much let him drink from this deep cup a long drought of life and youth. Everything is narrow in the West — **Greece** is small and I stifle; Judea is dry and I pant. Let me look toward lofty Asia, and **the profound East for a little while**. There lies my great poem - **Ramayana**, as vast as the Indian ocean, blessed, gilded with the sun, the book of divine harmony wherein is no dissonance. A serene peace reigns there, and in the midst of conflict **an infinite sweetness, a boundless fraternity, which spreads over all living things, an ocean, without bottom or bound, of love, of pity, of clemency.**

Source: *The Fragrance of India : Landmarks for the world of tomorrow*
by Louis Revel



1845 - 1919

German Indologist and professor of philosophy at the University of Kiel. During his younger days he was a student and devotee of the German Philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer, and became the first editor of the journal, Schopenhauer Yearbook. He had a marked admiration for Hinduism and Vedas and even Sanskritised his name to **Deva-Sena**. Thus, he is considered as one of the great scholars to propagate the universal wisdom of the *Upanishads* and Vedic literature in European countries.

Paul Deussen

Whatever may be the discoveries of the scientific mind, none can dispute **the eternal truths propounded by the Upanishads.**

Sources: Indian Antiquary by Paul Deussen

*

On the tree of wisdom there is no fairer flower than the **Upanishads**, and no finer fruit than the **Vedanta philosophy.**

Sources: by Paul Deussen

First Governor General of British India, he was deeply inspired by Indian literature. He wrote the preface to the first English translation of the **Bhagavad Gita** by **Charles Wilkins** (1785) extensively supported Sir William Jones in the foundation of the Asiatic Society in Calcutta



1732-1818

Lord Warren Hastings

I do not hesitate to pronounce the Gita a performance of great originality, of sublimity of conception, reasoning and diction almost unequalled; and a **single exception, amongst all the known religions of mankind.**

Source: *Indian horizons* Indian Council for Cultural Relations

*

The writers of the Indian philosophies will survive, when the British dominion in India shall long have ceased to exist, and when the sources which it yielded of wealth and power are lost to remembrances.

Source: *The sacred message of the Bhagavad Gita* by Swami Ranganathananda



1767-1845

Great German poet, critic, translator and principal philosopher of German classics and became the first Professor of Sanskrit and Indian Philosophy at the University of Bonn in Germany. He is best known for the translation of **Bhagavad Gita** (1823) into Latin and the **Ramayana** (1829) in and founded Sanskrit studies in Germany.

August Wilhelm Schlegel

The divine origin of man, as taught in Vedanta, is continually inculcated, to stimulate his efforts to return, to animate him in the struggle, and incite him to consider a reunion and re-incorporation with Divinity as the one primary object of every action and reaction.

*

Even the loftiest philosophy of the Europeans, the idealism of reason as it is set forth by the Greek philosophers, appears in comparison with the abundant light and vigor of Oriental idealism like a feeble spark in the full fold of heavenly glory of the noonday sun, faltering and feeble and ever ready to be extinguished.

Source: *The Inner Teachings Of The Philosophies and Religions of India* by Yogi Ramacharaka and William Walker Atkinson

Eminent poet, artist, and mystic, a leading figure in the Irish literary renaissance of the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century



W.B. Yeats

W.B. Yeats

The Bhagavad Gita and the Upanishads contain such godlike fullness of wisdom on all things that I feel the authors must have looked with calm remembrance back through a thousand passionate lives, full of feverish strife for and with shadows, ere they could have written with such certainty of things which the soul feels to be sure.

Source: *The Bhagavad Gita*, by Jawaharlal Nehru



1850-89

Most endearing and influential Romanian romantic poet, novelist, and journalist. His main focus was romantic poetry, and his poems were first published when he was just 16 years old. His most famous works include *Luceafarul*, *Ode in Ancient Meter*, and *Epistles-Satires*. He is considered the most famous and influential Romanian poet. He was highly influenced by the ancient Vedic wisdom of India.

Mihai Eminescu

So it is that bird and man, Sun and moon
Are born and die in **Brahma**
the Sacred — **Where all things**
become ONE.

Source: *Tattwamasi* is a translated poem by Mihai Eminescu

'Tattwamasi' Sanskrit term: You are that — The meaning of the phrase is that the Self in its original pure primordial state is wholly or partially identifiable or identical with the *Ultimate Reality* that is the ground and origin of all Cosmic phenomena. In other words that Brahman which is the common *Reality* behind everything in the cosmos is the same as the essential Divinity, namely *Self*, within each entity. It is this identity which is the essence of Upanishadic teaching. The realization of this arises only by an intuitive experience and is totally different from any objective experience.

Of Romanian extraction he is an eminent philosopher as well as a prolific writer and critic. His already superlative abilities were subsequently enhanced by passionate study of Sanskrit, which allowed him to compose a five volume opus titled 'History of Indian Philosophy.'



1907-86

Mircea Eliade

Yoga, as a **'science'** of achieving this transformation of **finite man into the infinite**, one has to be recognized as something intrinsically Indian or, as **'a specific dimension of the Indian mind.'**

Source : *East, Immortality and Freedom* - by Mircea Eliade

*

With a rigor unknown elsewhere, India has applied itself to analyzing the various conditioning of the human being.

Source : *East, Immortality and Freedom* - by Mircea Eliade



1746-1794

Great British scholar, philologist, and jurist who authored several books. He was the principal figure to introduce Indian literature to the Western world. When he translated the Sanskrit Drama **Shakuntala** (1789) into English, many western intellectuals were captivated, delighted and enchanted by his works, including the esteemed likes of Johann W. Goethe, Gottfried Herder, Friederich von Schiller. He also translated *Gita Govinda* (1789) and *Manusamhita* (1794) and edited *Ritusamhara* and founded **Asiatic Society** in Calcutta with the help of Henry Thomas Colebrooke and Nathaniel Halhed.

Sir William Jones

The six philosophical schools, whose principles are explained in the *Darsana Sastra*, comprise all the metaphysics of the old Academy, the Stoa, the Lyceum; nor is it possible to read the Vedanta, or the many fine compositions in illustration of it, without believing that **Pythagoras and Plato derived their sublime theories from the same fountain with the Sages of India.**

Source: The Philomathic journal by Philomathic Institution

I can venture to affirm, without meaning to pluck a leaf from the never-fading laurels of our immortal **Newton**, that the whole of his theology, and part of his philosophy, may be found in the Vedas.

Source: *History of the United States of America*
by Henry Steel Olcott

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Human life would not be sufficient
to make oneself acquainted with any
considerable part of
the ancient Indian literature.

Source: *Lectures on Contemporary India* by Suresh K. Sharma



Most noted Syriac philosopher, scientist, a spiritual monk who lived in the mid-seventh century. He was the first to introduce the Hindu numeral system to the Western world.

Severus Sebokht

I shall not speak the knowledge of the ancient sages...; of their subtle discoveries in the science of astronomy, **discoveries even more ingenious than those of the Greeks and Babylonians** of their rational system of mathematics, or of their method of calculation which **no words can praise strongly enough; I mean the system using nine symbols.**

Severus - The wonder that was India by A L Basham

Great American linguist and author, made significant contributions to Indo-European historical linguistics, developed structural linguistics. He was highly impressed by the Sanskrit language, for its scientific precision and exquisite refinement. **Language** was his most renowned work.



1887-1949

Leonard Bloomfield

It was in India, however, that there rose a body of knowledge which was destined to revolutionize European ideas about language. **The Hindu grammar taught Europeans to analyze speech forms**; when one compared the constituent parts, the resemblances, which hitherto had been vaguely recognized, could be set forth with certainty and precision.

*

While in the classical world scholars were dealing with language in a somewhat metaphysical way, the Indians were telling us what their language actually was, how it worked, and how it was put together. The methods and techniques for describing the structure of Sanskrit which we find in **Panini** have not been substantially bettered to this day in modern linguistic theory and practice. We today employ many devices in describing languages that were already known to Panini's first two commentators. **The concept of "zero" which in mathematics is attributed to India, finds its place also in linguistics.**

Source: *Traditions of India*, edited by C. L. Chatterjee, Agastya
reference: *History of Grammar*, by Leonard Bloomfield Hall



1767-1835

Eminent German philosopher, a brilliant linguist, and writer, who became the Prussian Minister of Education. He co-translated the portion of the *Bhagavad Gita* with Friedrich Hegel, and laid the foundation for the development of modern linguistics.

Wilhelm von Humboldt

The Gita, the most beautiful, perhaps the only true philosophical song existing in any known tongue — perhaps **the deepest and loftiest thing the world has to show.**

Source: *The Idea of Justice* - by Amartya Sen

Eminent Russian scholar, who authored several books and was the Russian Ambassador to Nepal and Sweden. He was, at the time of his passing, the Ambassador to India.



1949 - 2017

Alexander M. Kadakin

India seems to be specially designed by the God to defy all prognoses and theories. My heart remains here but all my Indias will travel back along with me, needing no extra space in the plane. And new ones will appear when I return.

Source: Passage to India: The Co-existence of Multiple Realities
- The Times of India



Professor of 'American Thought and Language' at Michigan State University he has written several books, founding the President of Association for the Study of Esotericism (ASE).

Dr. Arthur Vesilind

It is necessary that we turn to the Vedanta, because the Upanishads provide the purest metaphysics available to us from the primordial past.

Source: *The Septimal Mystery* - by Arthur Vershins[illegible]

Great Chinese scholar, translator,
journalist and prolific writer, who
authored many books in Chinese and
English. He was highly inspired by
ancient Indian literature.



1895-1976

Dr. Lin Yutang

India was China's teacher in religion and imaginative literature, and the world's teacher in Trigonometry, Quadratic Equations, Grammar, Phonetics, Arabian Nights, Animal fables, chess, as well as in philosophy, and that she inspired Boccaccio, Goethe, Herder, Schopenhauer, Emerson, and probably also old Aesop.

Writer: The Wisdom of the World - by Lin Yutang



Great German scholar, Ideologist,
Professor of Sanskrit at Heidelberg,
introduced Carl Jung to Indian
wisdom.

1890-1943

Heinrich Zimmer

We of the Occident are about to arrive at a
crossroads that was reached by the
**thinkers of India some seven
hundred years before Christ.** This is
the real reason, why we become both vexed and
stimulated, uneasy and yet interested, when
confronted with the concepts
and images of Oriental wisdom.

Source: *The search of the cradle of civilization: New light on ancient India*
by Georg Feuerstein, Subhash Kak, David Frawley



The whole edifice of Indian civilization is
imbued with spiritual meaning.

Source: *Philosophies of India* - by Heinrich Zimmer

Swedish statesman and minister in London,
and a scholar best known for a book on
Indian wisdom entitled 'The Theogony of
the Hindoos. With Their Systems of
Philosophy and Cosmogony'.



1779-1847

Count Magnus de Björnstjerna

These truly sublime ideas cannot fail to
convince us that the Vedas recognize
only one God, who is
**Almighty, Infinite, Eternal,
Self-existent, the Light and the
Lord of the Universe.**

Source: *The British Empire in the East*
Magnus Ferdinand Björnstjerna, Hannibal Evans Lloyd



1994

American author on the topics of yoga and other aspects of Vedic wisdom. She has done in-depth studies on Eastern traditions. Her major works are 'Daughters of the Goddess', 'The Complete Idiot's Guide to Hinduism', 'A Thousand Suns', 'Fearless Living: Yoga and Faith'.

Linda Johnson

We are impressed by the ability of Eastern religions like Hinduism to meet science head on, agreeing in many respects about important topics, such as the age and size of the universe.

Today, ancient Indian culture is **one of the last remaining enclaves of a universal minded religion.**

Source: *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Hinduism* by Linda Johnson

*

Hinduism is the one world religion that reaches out to embrace other faiths with respect because it believes that no one is excluded from the divine grace.

Source: *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Hinduism* by Linda Johnson

Great Chinese philosopher,
essayist, leading liberal
intellectual, ambassador to the
United States (1938-42),
Chancellor of Beijing University
(1946-48), and later, President of
the Academia Sinica in Taiwan



1891-1962



**India conquered and dominated China
culturally for 20 centuries** without ever
having to send a single soldier across her border.



Never before had China seen a religion so rich in imagery,
so beautiful and captivating in ritualism and so bold in
cosmological and metaphysical speculations. Like a
poor beggar suddenly halting before a magnificent
storehouse of precious stones of dazzling brilliancy and
splendor, China was overwhelmed, baffled and
overjoyed. She begged and borrowed freely from this
munificent giver. The first borrowings were chiefly from
the religious life of India, in which **China's
indebtedness to India can never be fully told.**

Source: *Indian and World Civilization* by D. P. Sinha



1919-2016

A great American enlightened scholar, he has written several spiritual books. He is best known for his *'The World's Religions'* that was translated into fourteen languages and sold over two million copies. He also taught at the *University of Denver* and *Washington University*.

Huston Smith

India's **cosmology** was prodigious in scope and depth, but India did not stop there. She went on to advance what was probably the most daring hypothesis man has ever conceived. **We are ourselves are the infinite, the very infinite from which the Universe proceeds.** Everything in Hinduism works to drive the point home.

*

While the West was still thinking, perhaps, of **6,000 years old universe** — India was already envisioning **ages and eons and galaxies as numerous as the sands of the Ganges.** The **UNIVERSE** so vast that modern astronomy slips into its folds without a ripple.

Source: The Hindu's journey: India and the West by Huston Smith

Great American Nobel Prize-winning scientist, worked extensively during World War II in designing radar bombing systems, invented the **maser and laser**. His other contributions are **microwave spectroscopy, quantum electronics, radio and infrared astronomy.**



1915 - 2015

Charles H. Townes

Indian students should value their religious culture and of course, the **classical Indian culture** bears importantly on the meaning of life and values. I would not separate the two. **To separate science and Indian culture would be harmful.** I don't think it is practical to keep scientific and spiritual culture separate.

*Source: Interviews with Nobel Laureates and Eminent Scientists
by T. D. Singh and Pawan K. Saharan*



1890 – 1965

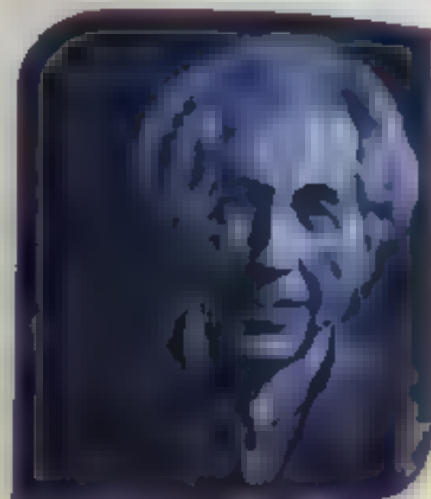
One of the great geologists of the twentieth century, performed the first uranium-lead radiometric dating. His textbook '*Principles of Physical Geology*' is considered a classic. He was deeply inspired by Indian wisdom.

Professor Arthur Holmes

Long before it became a scientific aspiration to estimate the age of the earth, many elaborate systems of the world chronology had been devised by the **sages of antiquity**. The most remarkable of these occult time-scales is that of the ancient Indians.

See also: Hinduism and Scientific Quest - by T. R. R. Iyengar

Eminent and prolific British philosopher; the most endearing British radio personality of the 1940's; authored over seventy-five books.



1891-1953

C. E. M. Joad

The thought of the Upanishads is bold
and free, and their general
conclusion is that
**mystical experience is the
pathway to reality.**

Source: Hinduism Invades America - by Wendell Thomas

Noted Japanese philosopher, art expert, curator and author. His 'The Book of Tea' is world-famous. He gave the world an image of Japan as a member of the East in the face of a massive onslaught of Western culture.



1862-1913

Professor Kakuzo Okakura

We catch a glimpse of the great river of science which **never ceases to flow in India.** For India has carried and scattered the data of intellectual progress for the whole world, ever since the pre-Buddhist period when she produced the **Sankhya philosophy and the atomic theory.**

Source: The Ideals of the East with Special Reference to the Art of Japan - by Kakuzo Okakura

Great prolific American writer,
historian and philosopher, world-
renowned for his work
'Story of Civilization'
in eleven Volumes.



1885-1981

Will Durant

India was the motherland of our race, and Sanskrit the mother
of Europe's languages: she was the mother of our philosophy;
mother, through the Arabs, of much of our mathematics; mother,
through the Buddha, of the ideals embodied in Christianity;
mother, through the village community, of self-government and
democracy. Mother India is in many ways the mother of us all.

Source: *The Case For India* - by Will Durant

*

But hardly had the British established themselves in
India before editions and translations of the Upanishads
began to stir Western thought. **Gottlieb Fichte** conceived an
idealism strangely like Shankara's; **Schopenhauer** incorporated
the Upanishads and the Vedanta into his philosophy; and
Schelling, in his old age, thought the Upanishads the maturest
wisdom of mankind. **Nietzsche** had dwelt too long with **Bismark**
and the **Greeks** to care for India.

Source: *The Case For India* - by Will Durant



1847-1933

Celebrated Irish writer of London, theosophist, women's rights activist, socialist and orator. She joined *Indian National Congress* for Indian Independence and became its president in 1917.

Annie Wood Besant

After a study of some forty years and more of the great religions of the world, I find none so perfect, none so scientific, none so philosophical and none so spiritual than the great religion known by the name of Hinduism.

Source: *India: Essays and Lectures Vol. IV* - by Annie Besant



India is the mother of all religions. In her are combined science and religion in perfect harmony, and it is India that shall be again the spiritual mother of the world.

Source: *Hindu Superiority* - by Har Bilas Sarda

Eminent Estonian philosopher, the first to
conceive and promote a planetary culture,
and founder of the School of Wisdom.



1880-1946

Count Hermann Keyserling

I have not found in Europe or America, poets,
thinkers or popular leaders equal, or even
comparable, to those of India today.

Source: *The Discovery of India* - by Jawaharlal Nehru

*

India has produced the **profoundest
metaphysics** that we know of, the absolute
superiority of India over the West in philosophy;
poetry from the Mahabharata, containing the
Bhagavad Gita, perhaps **the most beautiful
work of the literature of the world.**

Source: *The Case for India* - by Will Durant Simon and Schuster



1904 - 87

Great American mythologist, writer and lecturer; best known for his work in comparative mythology and comparative religion. Since publication of 'The Hero with a Thousand Faces', his ideas, based on Indian wisdom, have been consciously applied by a wide variety of modern writers and artists.

Joseph Campbell

Yoga is a technique to link consciousness to the ultimate truth — the mystery of being. The sense of the whole universe as a manifestation of the radiance of God and of yourself as likewise of that radiance, and the assurance that this is so, no matter what things may look like, round about, is the key to the wisdom of India.

Source: Joseph Campbell Foundation

The first principle of Indian thought is that the ultimate reality is beyond description. It is something that can be experienced only by bringing the mind to a stop; and once experienced, it cannot be described to anyone in terms of the forms of this world. The truth, the ultimate truth, that is to say, is transcendent. It goes past, transcends, all speech all images, anything that can possibly be said.

Source: Literary Digest by Patrick Colm Hogan, Lalita Pandit

The Father of the Indian Nation, philosopher and writer, whose works and lifestyle inspired a great many scholars, statesmen, scientists and diplomats of modern times.



1869 -1948

Mahatma Gandhi

Indian knowledge is like a boundless ocean teeming with priceless gems. **The deeper you dive the more treasures you find.**

*

On examination, I have found it to be the most tolerant of all religions known to me. Its freedom from dogma makes a forcible appeal to me inasmuch as it gives the votary **the largest scope for self-expression.**

*

I think I have understood Hinduism correctly when I say that it is **eternal, all-embracing and flexible** enough to suit all situations.

Source: <http://www.wisdomlib.org/hinduism>



1943 - 2001

One of the most celebrated English musicians, a singer, songwriter and lead guitarist of the Beatles. He was deeply inspired by the ancient wisdom and spiritualism of India after meeting the spiritual masters – *Maharishi Mahesh Yogi* in Rishikesh, and *Sri Sri Prabhupada* in England. He had also become fascinated by Indian classical music which he learnt from a world-renowned sitar maestro *Ravi Shankar*.

George Harrison

Through ancient wisdom,
I feel a better person.

I just get happier and happier. I now feel
that I am unlimited, and I am more in control.

Source: All Things Must Pass: The Life of George Harrison,
by *Marc Shapiro*



India and its wisdom unlocked
this enormous big door
in the back of my consciousness.

Source: The exotic in western music, by *Jonathan Bellman*

British orientalist, professor of Sanskrit at Oxford University, wrote several books on Indian wisdom, translated 'Shakuntala' of Kalidasa, best known for his Sanskrit-English and English-Sanskrit dictionaries.



1819-99

Sir Monier Monier Williams

Indeed, if I may be allowed the anachronism, the Indians were **Spinozites** more than two thousand years before the existence of Spinoza; and **Darwinians** many centuries before Darwin; and evolutionists many centuries before the doctrine of evolution had been accepted by the scientists of our time, and before any word like 'Evolution' existed in any language of the world.

by Yogi Ramacharaka



1863-1902

Great yogi, philosopher and charismatic orator of modern times, who inspired great minds like Nikola Tesla, Romain Rolland, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, John Henry Wright.

Swami Vivekananda

The conclusions of modern science are the very conclusions the Vedanta reached ages ago; only, in modern science they are written in the language of matter. Today we find wonderful discoveries of modern science coming upon us like bolts from the blue, opening our eyes to marvels we never dreamt of. But many of these are only re-discoveries of what had been found ages ago. It was only the other day that modern science discovered that what it calls **heat, magnetism, electricity**, and so forth, are **all convertible into one unit force.**

But this has been done even in the Samhita.

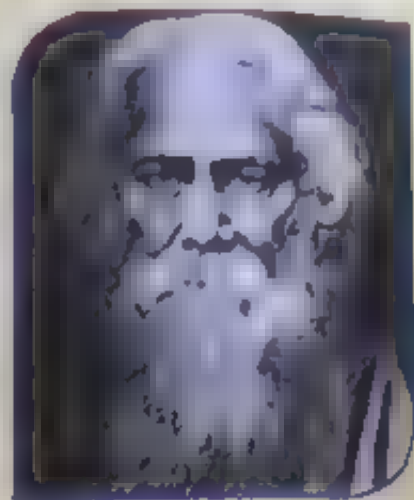
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All science is bound to this conclusion in the long run. **Manifestation, and not creation, is the word of science today**, and the Indian is only glad that what he has been cherishing in his bosom for ages is going to be taught in more forcible language, and with further light from the latest conclusions of science

Source: The Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda

Great philosopher, writer, poet
and artist, received the Nobel prize
in literature in 1913. Highly inspired
by Upanishads and works of the
greatest Sanskrit poet, Kalidasa.

His philosophical writings inspired Albert Einstein,
Werner Heisenberg, W. Butler Yeats, Ezra Pound,
Robert Bridges, Ernest Rhys, Thomas Sturge Moore.
He also penned down the National anthems of two
countries - India and Bangladesh.



1861-1941

Rabindranath Tagore

In Indian spiritualism, in our everyday
meditation, we try to realize God's
cosmic manifestation and thus free
our soul from the bondage of the
limitedness of the immediate; but for
us he is also an individual for the
individual, working out through our
evolution in time, our ultimate destiny.

Source: *Introduction to the Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore*, Vol. 1, Part 1



A very eminent Indian-American Mathematician, and a Professor of Mathematics at Princeton University, New Jersey. He won several prestigious awards – Morgan Prize (1996), Clay Research Award in 2005, Fields Medal (2014), Padma Bhushan in 2015 for his outstanding contributions. His important contributions include Gauss-style composition laws, generalization of the factorial function, elliptic curves, etc.

1974-

Manjul Bhargava

Mathematics and mathematical thinking have been an important aspect of Indian culture for a long time.

From ancient philosophical verses like **(Infinity minus infinity can still be infinity)** that reflect mathematical thinking, to the inherently mathematical structure of the alphabets and phonetics of Indian languages, **to the discovery of zero and negative numbers, combinatorics, trigonometry, calculus,** and more - so much mathematics has been discovered for ages in a way that is deeply intertwined in Indian culture.

Source: Manjul Bhargava in interview by India Today

One of the greatest philosophers, Indian nationalist, freedom fighter, yogi and poet.

His great works 'The Life Divine' and 'Savitri' are the testimony to his immense spiritual enlightenment.



1872-1950

Sri Aurobindo

Hinduism – gave itself no name, because it set itself no sectarian limits; it claimed no universal adhesion, asserted no sole infallible dogma, set up no single narrow path or gate of salvation; it was less a creed or cult than a continuously enlarging tradition of the Godward endeavor of the human spirit. An immense many-sided and many staged provision for a spiritual self-building and self-finding, it had some right to speak of itself by the only name it knew, the eternal religion, Santana Dharma.

Source *Sri Aurobindo - A Contemporary Reader*
by Aurobindo Ghose, Sachidananda Mohanty

*

That which we call the Hindu religion is really the eternal religion because **it embraces all others.**

Source *The Wisdom of Hindu Gurus* - by Timothy Freke



(1931 - 2015)

Very erudite scientist, statesman and the 11th President of India. He was born and raised in Rameswaram, Tamilnadu and studied physics and aerospace engineering. He spent most of his life as a scientist and a science administrator at the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and was popularly known as the Missile Man of India. He was elected as the 11th President in 2002 with the support of both parties and is widely known as the People's President. He was the recipient of India's highest civilian honour - Bharat Ratna.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Vedas are the oldest classics and the most precious treasures of India. The soul of Bharathya sanskriti dwells in the Vedas.

The entire world admits the importance of the Vedas.

Source: *Vedas - Soul of India* - by Dina Nath Mishra

*

Tell me, why is the media here so negative? Why are we in India so embarrassed to recognise our own strengths, our achievements? We are such a great nation. We have so many amazing success stories but we refuse to acknowledge them. Why?

Source: *Why We Are Not a Superpower* - Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
by Mahesh Sharma, Mahesh Sharma, P. Bhalla

A renowned linguist, emeritus professor
and founder of the Department of
Linguistics at the *University of California,
Berkeley*, also taught in *Yale University*.
Besides being proficient in French, German
and Latin, he earned Ph D degree in Sanskrit,
and had undertaken an extensive research on
Dravidian language family and finally published
'A Dravidian Etymological Dictionary'
Among over a score of linguistic books the
best known are 'The Strangling Figs In
Sanskrit Literature' (1949) and 'India and
Historical Grammar' (1965).



1904 - 2005

Murray Barnson Emeneau

India AND Linguistics!

It was, as this Society needs no reminding,
the linguistics of the India of more than two
millennia ago that was
**the direct germinal origin of
the linguistics of
the Western world today.**

*Essays on Language and Linguistic Area Essays by
Murray Barnson Emeneau*



1906-1998

One of the most exceptionally gifted and brilliant French mathematicians of the twentieth century. Besides many other contributions, his discovery of connections between Algebraic geometry and the Number theory is profound. Elected to the Academy of Sciences in Paris and to the National Academy of Sciences in the United States, his work on algebraic curves contributed immensely to the study of the particle physics and string theory, authored many books, well-versed in Sanskrit, and at the age of sixteen read the *Bhagavad Gita* in original Sanskrit which became his lifelong companion.

Andre Weil

The intellectual potentialities of the Indian nation are unlimited and not many years would perhaps be needed before India can take a worthy place in world Mathematics.

Source: Sri Aurobindo: *The hour of God and the new age*
by Aurobindo Ghose

Most prolific and brilliant Austrian writer, philosopher, social and spiritual thinker and architect. The complete edition of his published works numbers over 330 volumes.



1861-1925

Rudolph Steiner

In order to approach a creation as
sublime as the Bhagavad Gita with full
understanding it is necessary
to attune our soul to it.

Source: *The Lord's Song - Gita* - by Dr. Sant K. Bhatnagar



Eminent biologist, brilliant expositor of science, socialist and scientific humanist and medical statistician; best known for developing *Xenopus laevis* as a model organism for biological research.

1895 – 1975

Lancelot Thomas Hogben

In the whole history of **Mathematics**, there has been no more revolutionary step than the one which the Indian made when they invented the sign '0' for the empty column of the counting frame.

Source: *Mathematics for the Millions* by Lancelot Thomas Hogben

One of the greatest linguists of the nineteenth century, a professor of General linguistics and Asian culture at the University of Berlin had undertaken pioneering research in the development of Modern linguistics on the basis of Sanskrit language. Also a disciple of Friedrich Schlegel, he established a basis of comparative studies of language; his landmark works such as -- *Analytical Comparison of the Sanskrit, Greek, Latin and Comparative Grammar of Sanskrit, Latin, Greek* inspired Max Muller, Michel Bréal, Ferdinand de Saussure, Leonard Bloomfield, Roman Jakobson



1791-1867

Franz Bopp

The beauties of the Sanskrit language are not the work of the learned or the priesthood, as some might be inclined to suppose; but that they really were in daily use in the mouth of the people, and were so strongly impressed upon their minds, that they did not forget them in their transmigration beyond distant mountains and seas.

*

We might further conclude, that a nation, possessing a language so polished in so early a period, where we are altogether abandoned by the light of history, must be able to boast of **a very ancient literature.**

*Sources: Analytical Comparison of the Sanskrit, Greek, Latin and
Indo-European Languages by Franz Bopp*



1950 – 2019

Born in Wales and educated at Exeter College Oxford was an eminent Canadian writer, journalist, critic and novelist. He also worked as a television producer at the BBC and then the CBC and Citytv in Toronto. He later taught at Bangalore University and studied Sanskrit at the Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi.

Paul William Roberts

The Vedas see the ultimate Truth behind all ephemeral truths. **The Creation leads us to the Creator**, to the highest knowledge, which is integrated into one.

*

The Vedas still represent eternal truth in the purest form ever written. And they are what drew me to India in the first place, what kept me there, and what draws me back still.

*

India is the only country that feels like home to me, the only country whose airport tarmac I have ever kissed upon landing.

Source: *Empire of the Soul: Some Journeys in India*
by Paul William Roberts

Leading American historian and author
he is considered one of the world's
foremost authorities on the political and
intellectual history of modern
India and Pakistan.
He taught at the University
of California, Los Angeles.



1927-2019

Stanley Wolpert

**Mathematics is the science to which
Indians have contributed the most.**
Our decimal system, place notation, numbers
1 through 9, and the **ubiquitous 0**,
are all major Indian contributions to world science.

Without them, our modern world of computer
sciences, earth-launched satellites, microchips,
and artificial intelligence
would all have been impossible.

**Zero, this modest and most valuable
of all numerals is of the subtle gifts of
India to mankind.**

Zero: A History of the Number 0 by Stanley Wolpert



1965-

A very celebrated scientist and professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford, the former President of the Mathematical Association UK, has been elected as 'Simonyi Professorship for the Public Understanding of Science' at the University of Oxford. Honoured with several prestigious awards, his principal contributions are *group theory* and *number theory*. Visited India for his research and was highly impressed by the profundity of the wisdom of ancient seers. His best-known books are 'The Music of the Primes' and 'A Mathematical Odyssey through Everyday Life'.

■ Marcus du Sautoy ■

At university I fell in love with a precise formula for π (Π) which involves alternatively adding and subtracting the odd fractions. I was taught in lectures that it was called the *Leibniz formula*, after the great 18th-century German mathematician Gottfried Leibniz, who discovered it using the powerful new tool of calculus for which he and Isaac Newton became so famous.

It therefore came as a huge shock to me to discover recently that a school of Indian mathematicians in **Kerala** in south **India** arrived at this formula several centuries earlier. It should, in fact, be called the **Madhava formula**, in honour of the Indian scholar who first hit upon it. π was not the only great mathematical discovery made in India.

Negative numbers and zero – concepts that in Europe, as late as the 14th century, were viewed with huge suspicion – were being conjured with on the subcontinent as early as the seventh century.

Sources: The Telegraph, Daily, UK

Articles

NASA scientists hail Sanskrit as the perfect language

*The following article published in AI (Artificial Intelligence) Magazine
of 1985 written by NASA researcher, Rick Briggs*

In the past twenty years, much time, effort and money has been expended on designing an unambiguous representation of natural languages to make them accessible to computer processing. These efforts have centered around creating schemata designed to parallel logical relations with relations expressed by the syntax and semantics of natural languages, which are clearly cumbersome and ambiguous in their function as vehicles for the transmission of logical data. Understandably, there is a widespread belief that natural languages are unsuitable for the transmission of many ideas that artificial languages can render with great precision and mathematical rigor.

But this dichotomy, which has served as a premise underlying much work in the areas of linguistics and artificial intelligence, is a false one. There is at least one language, Sanskrit, which for the duration of almost 1000 years was a living spoken language with a considerable literature of its own. Besides works of literary value, there was a long philosophical and grammatical tradition that has continued to exist with undiminished vigor until the present century. Among the accomplishments of the grammarians can be reckoned a method for paraphrasing Sanskrit in a manner that is identical not only in essence but in form with current work in Artificial Intelligence. This article demonstrates that a natural language can serve as an artificial language also, and that much work in AI has been reinventing a wheel millennia old.

Note: Technical and linguistic structural illustration excluded

A few quotes on Sanskrit language

Sanskrit is a language amazingly rich, efflorescent, full of luxuriant growth of all kinds, and yet precise and strictly keeping within the framework of grammar which Panini laid down two thousand years ago. It spread out, added to its richness, became fuller and more ornate but always it stuck to its original roots. The ancient Indians attached a great deal of importance to sound, and hence their writing poetry or prose, had a rhythmic and musical quality. Our modern languages of India are children of Sanskrit, and to it owe most of their vocabulary and their forms of expressions. The Sanskrit grammarians wished to construct a perfect language, which would belong to no one and thus belong to all, which would not develop but remain an ideal instrument of communication and culture for all peoples and all time.

▪ Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

The Sanskrit language, whatever be its antiquity, is of a wonderful structure, more perfect than the Greek, more copious than the Latin and more exquisitely refined than either; yet bearing to both of them a stronger affinity, both in the roots of verbs, and in the forms of grammar than could possibly have been produced by accident; so strong indeed, that no philologist could examine them all without believing them to have sprung from some common source which perhaps no longer exists.

▪ Sir William Jones

It was an astounding discovery that India possessed, in spite of the changes of realms and variety, a language, the parent of all those dialects that Europe has fondly called classical - the source alike of Greek flexibility and Roman strength. A philosophy, compared with which in point of age, the lessons of Pythagoras are but of yesterday and in point of daring speculation Plato's boldest efforts were tame and commonplace. A poetry more purely intellectual than any of those of which we had before any conception and

systems of science whose antiquity baffled all power of astronomical calculation. This literature, with all its colossal proportions, which can scarcely be described without the semblance of bombast and exaggeration claimed of course a place for itself - it stood alone, and it was able to stand alone.

• William Cooke Taylor

Sanskrit means 'complete', 'perfect' and 'definitive'. In fact, this language is extremely elaborate, almost artificial, and is capable of describing multiple levels of meditation, states of consciousness and psychic, spiritual and even intellectual processes. As for vocabulary, its richness is considerable and highly diversified. Sanskrit has for centuries lent itself admirably to the diverse rules of prosody and versification. Thus we can see why poetry has played such a preponderant role in all of Indian culture and Sanskrit literature.

• Georges Ifrah

India though it has more than five hundred spoken dialects, has only one sacred language and only one sacred literature, accepted and revered by all adherence of Hinduism alike, however diverse in race, dialect, rank and creed. That language is Sanskrit and Sanskrit literature - the only repository of the Veda or knowledge in its widest sense, the only vehicle of Hindu mythology, philosophy, law, the mirror in which all the creeds, opinions, and customs and usages of the Hindus are faithfully reflected and the only quarry whence the requisite materials may be obtained for improving the vernaculars or for expressing important religious and scientific ideas.

• Sir Monier Monier-Williams

The grammar of Panini stands supreme among the grammars of the world, alike for its precision of statement, and for its thorough analysis of the roots of the language and of the formative principles of words. By employing an algebraic terminology it attains a sharp succinctness unrivaled in brevity, but at times enigmatical. It arranges, in logical harmony, the whole phenomena which the Sanskrit language presents, and stands forth as one of the most splendid achievements of human invention and industry. So elaborate is the structure, that doubts have arisen whether its

complex rules of formation and phonetic change its polysyllabic derivatives its ten conjugations with their multiform accents and long array of tenses could ever have been the spoken language of a people

• Sir William Wilson Hunter

Panin's grammar is the earliest scientific grammar in the world, the earliest extant grammar of any language, and one of the greatest ever written. It was the discovery of Sanskrit by the West, at the end of the 18th century, and the study of Indian methods of analyzing language that revolutionized our study of language and grammar, and gave rise to our science of comparative philology. The study of language in India was much more objective and scientific than in Greece or Rome. The interest was in empirical investigation of language, rather than philosophical and syntactical. Indian study of language was as objective as the dissection of a body by an anatomist.

• Walter Eugene Clark

Since the Renaissance there has been no event of such worldwide significance in the history of culture as the discovery of Sanskrit literature in the latter part of the eighteenth century.

• A. Anthony Macdonell

Sanskrit is the artificial language par excellence, patiently refined sound by sound, embracing all the levels of being physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual. It is ideally suited to describe and govern the nature of phenomena from the spiritual level to the physical. This range of applicability in the realm of nature paradoxically makes this most artificial language the most natural language, the language of nature.

• Jean LeMee

The creation of Sanskrit, the "refined" language, was a prodigious work on a grand scale. Grammarians and semanticists of genius undertook to create a perfect language, artificial and permanent, belonging to no one, that was to become the language of the entire culture. Sanskrit is built on a basis of Vedic and the Prakrits, but has a much more complex grammar, established according to a rigorous logic. It has an immense vocabulary and a very adaptable grammar, so that words can be grouped together to express any nuance of an

idea and verb forms can be found to cover any possibility of tense such as future intentional in the past, present continuing into the future and so on. Furthermore, Sanskrit possesses a wealth of abstract nouns, technical and philosophical terms unknown in any other language. Modern Indian scholars of Sanskrit culture have often remarked that many of the new concepts of nuclear physics or modern psychology are easy for them to grasp, since they correspond exactly to familiar notions of Sanskrit terminology.

• Alan Danielou

Though its fame is much restricted by its specialized nature, there is no doubt that Panini's grammar is one of the greatest intellectual achievements of any ancient civilization, and the most detailed and scientific grammar composed before the 19th century in any part of the world.

• Prof. A. L. Basham

Sanskrit studies and Sanskrit publications of Franz Bopp, the pioneer of the comparative linguistics of the modern times, are the solid foundations upon which his system of comparative grammar was erected, and without which that could not have been perfect. For that purpose, far more than a mere dictionary knowledge of Sanskrit was required. The resemblances which he detected between Sanskrit and the Western cognate tongues existed in the syntax, the combination of words in the sentence and the various devices which only actual reading of the literature could disclose, far more than in the mere vocabulary. As a comparative grammarian he was much more than as a Sanskrit scholar, and yet it is surely much that he made the grammar formerly a maze of Indian subtilty, as simple and attractive as that of Greek or Latin, introduced the study of the easier works of Sanskrit literature and trained (personally or by his books) pupils who could advance far higher, invade even the most intricate parts of the literature and make the Vedas intelligible. The great truth which his Comparative Grammar established was that of the mutual relations of the connected languages. Affinities had before him been observed between Latin and German, between German and Slavonic, etc., yet all attempts to prove one the parent of the other had been found preposterous.

• Russell Martineau

My Discovery of India

Indian philosophers subtleties make most of the great
European philosophers look like school boys.

- T.S. Eliot

Salil Gewali

Firstly it was my great love for the country. Secondly, I learned much about Indian wisdom when I was introduced to the works of Swami Vivekananda by my father at an early age. Frankly speaking, Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo, Paramhansa Yogananda and Mahatma Gandhi were my initial eye-openers and inspiration. Their works embedded deeply in my heart inspired me to read more and explore more. I fondly treasured those boyhood days, I was not even 10 years old then when a small booklet '*Call to the Nation*' by Swamiji, I would read as and when I would have free time. It wholly changed my perspective looking at the country and even the life we live in this mundane world. *The Bhagavad Gita* and *Upanishads* were other books I was quite drawn to read again and again and ponder over the higher meanings of life.

Here let me narrate how the seed of inspiration was sown and how it germinated which now has taken root to grow into a tall standing tree.

It was a winter's day in 1988, when I was traveling to Delhi that I picked up a book '*The Discovery of India*', by Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru from a newsstand in Guwahati Railway station. I had heard a lot about this work of Pundit Nehru. It contains a wealth of knowledge information as to the country and about the significance of its ancient heritage. I read his book very attentively throughout my journey of over 36 hours. What amazed me most were a few of the chapters in the book by world famous western scholars and their chapters. These few quotes were a deep appreciation of the rich ancient wisdom, its long life and culture. For many months I

felt extremely haunted by those words of the western luminaries.

The second book that fascinated me again was 'Autobiography of a Yogi' by Paramhansa Yogananda. Here even I had come across such profound "opinions" by great thinkers like **Ralph Emerson** and **Arthur Schopenhauer** who were close to my heart. These quotes had left deep imprints – both in my inner mind and in my heart. I had begun to realise that this country is far more than what we have known or made to be known as.

But the turning point happened when I encountered a book entitled 'We are not the first' by UFO scientist **Thomas Andrew** where I came upon the incredible facts based on Modern Science. I clearly saw that a great many discoveries of modern times had already been mentioned in the ancient scripture of India. I got the vivid references and precise theoretical illustrations of "atomic structures" and the "time scales" which are far inconceivable to the scientists of even the early 20th century. My science background immensely helped me to go deeper into the subject.

I strongly felt then, these western scientists would not have applauded and approved of the ancient wisdom and knowledge had there not been any scientific validity and significance. I gradually got to know that scientists like **Schrödinger**, **Niels Bohr**, **Julius Oppenheimer**, **David Bohm**, **Heisenberg**, **David Josephson**, et al, had sufficiently got the ideas relative to *Quantum Physics* from the *Upanishads* and *Vedas*. It dawned upon me that the ancient treatises had greatly emboldened those scientists to plunge deeper into the "atom", and moreover into the inner core of *Quantum Mechanics*. Here are the words of approval by **Werner Heisenberg** – '*After the conversations about Indian philosophy, some of the ideas of Quantum Physics that had seemed so crazy suddenly made much more sense.*' All these facts consequently strengthened my conviction about the infallibility of the ancient literary archives from my early age.

I kept reading, peering through the pages. I was constantly on the lookout for where I might stumble upon the 'great words of great minds'. I rummaged through the pages of probably over a hundred more such books on ancient philosophy. The works on *linguistics*, *astronomy*, *astrology*, *spiritualism*, *Aurveda* mostly written by western scholars also captivated me, intrigued me. Well, the books like '*The Tao of Physics*' by a famous American physicist **Fritjof Capra**, '*Indian and the*

world Civilization' by DP Singhal, *Hinduism Invades America* by Wendell Thomas, 'Mathematics for Million' by Thomas Hogben, *The Great Secret* by Maurice Maeterlinck and so on and so forth added to firming up my determination to do something unprecedented and substantial for the country. I clearly saw this great country being much neglected and also underestimated and undervalued by her own children. In time, I grew more inquisitive and felt that I should know my Mother before I developed a kinship with others' mothers

The thing that pricked my conscience incessantly was one question. Why, in my over sixteen years of academic studies in several prestigious institutions, I could not find even sporadic references to these amazing facts. Why have these proud truths about the ancient knowledge of the country never been taught to our Indian students while their minds are stuffed with rather controversial information that only leaves behind negative impressions about the country and her ancient heritage? I was startled to know that **Pythagoras** from Greece came to India to learn Geometry and spiritualism not from any of my textbooks, nor even from mathematics books published from the home country, but from the work of one of the greatest thinkers of all time **Francois Voltaire**.

The people were put in the dark in many ways for ages. Needless to say that the majority of our literate folks have heard about **Ralph Emerson**. But, barely a few know this world-acclaimed poet had written a solemn poem '*Brahma*' and an essay '*Over-Soul*' inspired by our ancient wisdom. I sensed many things amiss in the country. Yes, we in India swell our chest to quote **TS Eliot** but hardly do we take our cue from his world-famous poem '*The Waste land*' that ends in the Sanskrit word '*Shanti, Shanti, Shanti*', and that finally speaks of cardinal truths as expounded in *Brihaddaranyaka Upanishad*. One wonders why Indians never get to learn such proud facts about the country and her rich literary heritage from the prescribed academic books. It's bewildering such stupendously lofty data is missing from the textbooks. So it's no strange now that our children have grown to have less respect for our own heritage and values.

Other factors that forced me to embark on this odiously tedious research project are curiously paradoxical. A good many literary books published in the country, which deliberately undermined the ancient

text and denigrated the cultural values of the home country, were held in high esteem. Those authors were only applauded, honoured and awarded. Whereas the ones who loved the country and wanted to uphold the traditional values and preserve the ancient wisdom were considered as the cohort lost in the wilderness of jingoism. All these treacherous phenomena which, I believe, never exist in any other countries in the world, had perturbed me. In the midst of pessimism, however, I felt a surge of optimism pushing me forward. Some uncanny power was spurring me to assert that the patriots of the country were not oddballs and the treatises produced by the ancient sages were not fairytale myths.

Yes, to me, nothing would be more intriguing and encouraging than to know that **Erwin Schrodinger** (Nobel laureate, the father Quantum Mechanics), **Brian David Josephson** and **Robert Julius Oppenheimer** (father of Atomic Bomb), **Jack Sarfatti** --- who held the Indian literature in the highest esteem, had studied *Upanishads*, besides the *Bhagavad Gita* deeply. They had drawn lots of ideas about Modern physics and other research works from the ancient scriptures. **Schrödinger** had even supported his theory in his revolutionary work on Quantum Mechanics by the phrases from *Upanishads*. He boldly pointed out in his famous work *'My view of the World'* - *'In all the world, there is no kind of framework within which we can find CONSCIOUSNESS in the plural; this is simply something we construct because of the temporal plurality of individuals, but it is a false construction.... The only solution to this conflict in so far as any is available to us at all lies in the ancient wisdom of the UPANISHADS.'* Thanks to the works of **Rabindranath Tagore** whose *Vedantic wisdom* spellbound even **Albert Einstein** and **Heisenberg**, while **Vivekananda's** speeches bewitched **Nicholas Tesla**, **Romain Rolland**, **Ella Wilcox**, **J. D. Salinger** and the like.

Of course, I started casually collecting such quotes about 22 years ago. But the idea of making a book occurred to me while reading the world famous books - *'The Tao of Physics'* and *'Uncommon Wisdom'* by **Fritjof Capra** for the second time in 1995. Indeed, it put me in the most pensive mood and got me lost in the depth of thoughts for many years when I had come upon **Julius Oppenheimer's** bombshell like quote - *'What we shall find in Modern Physics is an exemplification, an encouragement and a refinement of old Indian wisdom.'* This statement so deeply touched me when I saw great messages by the father of

...not only for modern scientists but for the whole of mankind. I hope that this must be spread among every citizen of India who is less aware of the higher truths about the ancient Indian civilisation. At least to make the citizens aware that ancient civilisations were science based, universal and secular to the core. Paul Deussen has rightly eulogised - *'While it may be the discoveries of the scientific revolution can dispute the eternal truths propounded by the Upanishads'*.

The years 1996-98 saw me frantically preoccupied. I exhaustively worked on this compilation. Of course for the paucity of resources, it was a big challenge for me to come across such quotes in those days but I did not hold back. I would regularly visit a number of libraries of Shillong like State Central library, RK Mission library, St. Anthony Library, NEHU library and the like, because I did not have enough money to buy books. I cannot neglect to mention here, that apart from our own bookstall, where I got to read many kinds of books, how I would frequent the junkyard - a popular second-hand market just near our bookshop in Shillong. This was my preferred rendezvous. I had come across a rare collection of books there. I had chanced upon to read priceless books of great intellectuals -- like the translated works of Voltaire, Gottfried Herder, Sir William Jones, Friedrich Hegel, Max Muller, Henry David Thoreau from those few shops in this shabby market at Bara Bazar, Shillong.

Life is not always a bed of roses. The dreams one cherishes often meet with a stumbling block of adversaries. No matter how I tried, I could not save enough money to publish the book for many years, though the compilation was ready in 1998 itself. Family responsibilities had begun to weigh heavily on me. However, I never lost my heart, and I never pulled back. I would do lots of Aetox of those compiled quotes and share with anyone whom I believe would appreciate them. Some would get awe-struck and also shed a few tears, some would remain indifferent while some would just become critical. I would feel hurt along. I wondered why do they felt uncomfortable when the *Upanishads* of our own great Motherland was being appreciated. I also decided that the Western intellectuals whom they all held in the highest esteem as the men who brought significant changes to the world.

At last, my weary and dreary wait of over 11 years from 1997 to 2009, is over. Yes, with a little improvement in my economy, I could see my cherished dream fulfilled. At last, in 2009, I published my treasured compilation entitled 'What is India?' (and later changed to *Great Minds on India*) in a glossy format. I was delighted. The book was instantly glorified – so appreciated that the Governor of Meghalaya heartily consented to release it in the most fitting manner.

I have reasons to feel blessed. The work immediately caught the attention of scholars from across the world which I had hardly expected. A shower of compliments began to pour in. To my immense delight, I received phone calls even from a great many eminent scholars, writers throughout the world. I was immensely thrilled when Prof. A. V. Murali – an eminent NASA scientist – called me up to express his gratitude for the work. He remarked – *'This compilation is simply outstanding! I never knew that such a compilation existed and we all should be thankful to the researcher! These great quotes should be embossed on plaques and displayed on the walls of our Parliament, State Assembly Halls, and at all our educational institutions. Most importantly, the material should be made compulsory reading for all the school students – elaborating more on who is who and the monumental contributions of these intellectual giants.'*

– Prof. A. V. Murali,
Former NASA scientist, Houston, Texas

Lastly, my sincere prayer – may this ancient wisdom of the country evoke awe and reverence among the intellectuals. Let no citizen of the country speak ill of the Mother whose womb gave birth to these great souls whose works mesmerised even the great minds – Voltaire, Hegel, Goethe and Einstein.

Comments on the book by various intellectuals

'Great Minds on India' is simply outstanding! I never knew that such a book existed, and we all should be thankful to the author! These great quotes should be embossed on plaques and displayed on the walls of our Parliament, State Assembly Halls, and at all our educational institutions. *Most importantly, the material should be made compulsory reading for all the school students*(elaborating more on 'who is who' and the monumental contributions of these intellectual giants).

Prof. A. V. Murali, PhD, Former NASA scientist, Houston, Texas

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Salil Gewali has lovingly researched and compiled an excellent set of quotations that illustrate how highly great thinkers from all over the world valued Indian spiritual culture and how it transformed their lives. *An inspirational read that reminds us of our amazing ancient heritage and why we need to incorporate it into our lives as modern Indians*

Prof. Chitra Divakaruni, a US-based renowned writer, her famous novel, 'The Mistress of Spices' was released as a film directed by Paul Maveda Berges starring Aishwarya Rai and Dylan McDermott.

*

'Great minds on India' is a great book. More than an East/West philosophical encounter, this book reveals how Indian classics transformed the thinking of many western thinkers

"Great minds on India" brings to light the ancient wisdom of the East and reminds us in the West that spiritual knowledge, not the pursuit of pleasure, is the true source of happiness

Robert Maldonado, Neuropsychologist New York

I am very proud to be able to translate Sahil Gewali's book into German. Despite the modern western culture's affection for old Indian practices, particularly the wisdom related to yoga and meditation, very few know about the influence Indian philosophy has had upon 'our' most popular thinkers like Schopenhauer, Johann Goethe, and Hesse. These great literary figures have stated at places that their work couldn't have existed without the influence of the Upanishads and the work of Kalidasa like *Shakuntala*.

Caroline Hagen, Overath, Germany

♦

It is a remarkable effort to compile the words of wisdom about the treasure of Indian knowledge, heritage and legacy from the mouths or pens of the greatest scholars of the world around.

The educational institutes should incorporate this book in the academic curriculum if they really revere this sacred land.

Dr. Priyanka Rao, California

♦

All have got to go and read this amazing book by Sahil Gewali. India is the land of my Soul. The ancient literature of INDIA contains the greatest wisdom of this Universe. *There is so much to discover in Indian philosophy. Thanks, modern science has acknowledged that.*

Agnes Goyvaerts, Huston, USA

♦

This book communicates the great impact of Indian wisdom on the wisest thinkers throughout history. It has shown the impact of ancient thought and wisdom on prominent intellectuals and influential people whose contributions to the world are immeasurable. One of its contributions is to place these related impacts in one book so that comparative studies on the impacts and thoughts can be made. One thing that impressed me so much about this book is its wide span of time and thinkers across history covering a broad spectrum of subjects. The profound importance of Indian wisdom is shown throughout by the greatest of the great rational thinkers. Undoubtedly, India has served as a beacon of light.

... it time and will continue to do so.
Dr Carolyn D. Heising, PhD, Nuclear Scientist
University of Texas at Austin, USA

A great work of wisdom. The Government of India should honour
Sri Aurobindo with Bharat Ratna. If India wants to be great in the
future, these quotes should be compulsorily taught to every school
student and see in 15 years — how all Macaulay's children
becoming traitors/patriotic. Why alone that — the whole world
will be inspired to follow in the footsteps of *Emerson, Yeats,*
Schlegel, Oppenheimer, Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo, Romain
Rolland, David H Thoreau, etc. A big revolution would take place
in which the world community would be like one family — as stated
in the ancient text. I think all sensible people should immediately
join and cooperate with the author in the propagation
and dissemination of this work.

Dr Naresh Mishra, Delhi

Further evidence and a further testimony to the immense wisdom that
comes from the great masters in ancient India, who saw the truth in
ancient times and left it for us to ponder. It's great to see that science
now knows and appreciates this. I am fully convinced great jewels
of profound wisdom are firmly rooted in ancient literature. The
West has vested all in the material and is just beginning to see the
vastness of consciousness and the awareness that comes from an
experience of meditation. This meditation yoga alone can help to be
aware of such consciousness pervading the infinite cosmos.

Robert Brenton, Brooklyn, New York

Great Minds on India is a must for all libraries and working
people. It is a great work and one of the best ever
written on the subject. It is particularly
valuable in showing how the world has been
affected by the great minds of the past. It is a
must for all who are interested in the history of
the world and the human mind.

country that include the scholars like – Adelford, Emerson, Voltaire, Frederick Engels, Mark Twain, H. G. Wells, Henry David Thoreau, George Bernard Shaw, Werner Heisenberg, J.S. Eliot, Julius Robert Oppenheimer, Ralph Emerson, Mark Twain.

I am AKA, a deep devotee that I learned to respect my country. After I got a letter coming to the USA that when I was in India I saw the education system that barely informs us about our rich literary heritage. Over 90% of Indians in the USA get down to study the country's culture and heritage when they see Americans to down 2 YOGA, meditation and reading ancient texts. I believe this great India, a greatly misunderstood country in the world should not produce any more culture hating country hating scholars, columnists and media crews.

Priyanka Sharma, Los Angeles, USA



Congratulations for an excellent book – 'Great Minds on India'. As other scholars, my intense efforts in quest of real wisdom led me to Indian spiritualism. I can't describe this experience, not to show it. Every Act is Gratitude, Meditation, and Devotion now. I can live my humble vocation in Joy at every moment... the credit goes to Indian literature. Well, please do not forget to mention *Pythagoras of Samos*, who made a long journey into the Indian and studied the *Satya Satras* and carried to Greece studies including geometry and trigonometry (with applications to astronomy, geography, navigation, spiritualism etc).

Prof. Philippe Le Marchall, Brittany, France



An excellent work by my friend Mr Sahil Grewal. India is a country, a leader in the fields of philosophy, spirituality, arts and culture, and many other realms of our social and political life. 'Great Minds of India' is an exceptional work by Mr Grewal to gain the world and it is the perfect book for all students to read with the entire world. A must book for all students.

**Indrajit Grewal, Director, Department of
Management Studies, Coimbatore**

I must congratulate Salil Grewal for bringing out such a volume. I have collected many the quotes of the world I researched and collected the quotes which are in appreciation of the knowledge and wisdom. The youth of today should be wholly aware of great quotes so that they will have a better appreciation of our Indian culture, tradition and heritage.

Dr D. Swaminadhan, *a permanent scientist (M.Sc.)*
Department of Chemistry, The University of Hyderabad, New
Technological University, Hyderabad

At the age of 60, I am still a student of India and I have not come across such RICH booklet by anyone. I am absolutely thrilled at the quality and depth of this research work. A "must read" for every student, scientist and educated man.

S. Murthy Bhaskaruni, *Energy & Utilities Senior Executive*
Houston, Texas, USA

Thanks for the enlightening book of quotes by the most renowned scholars. India's knowledge is what we need to live in a better way in a human way. First, specifically India, is the light the world needs for real progress as civilized humanity. Yes, we have the privilege of access to Vedic Scriptures, it's the best contribution that India has made to all humankind and to all living entities.

Cynthia Tejada Del Poro, *Lima, Arequipa, Peru*

My hearty congratulations to Salil Grewal for this amazing research and the publication of this unparalleled book. In my considered opinion, this book is an important step forward in understanding of the inspiring roots of our glorious and science-based culture and literary treasure of INDIA which hardly few are aware of.

Dr Damodar Chakur, *Professor of*
Chemistry, Department of Physics, University of Sindh, Pakistan

I greatly love an amazing book - '*Great minds on India*' by Sahil Grewal. Being a lover of science, philosophy, and literature, I have long believed that many of these great minds had an eastern influence to many of their ideas. It is enlightening to have such a connection acknowledged and so well documented.

G. Andrew, New England, USA

•

It is doubtless a unique venture and the compiler Sahil Grewal deserves kudos for having accomplished such an onerous task as to compile comments on India and ancient wisdom by a galaxy of Western intellectual giants and then to choose the best and the most relevant ones.

Bikash Sarmah, The Chief Editor, The Sentinel, Guwahati

•

The book is a wonderful source of inspirational thoughts for we all Indians who have lost sight of India's values and her contribution to the world and to modern science. It is doubtlessly a mirror of the intellectual prowess of our *rishis* who created Vedas and Upanishads.

Prof Shubham Das, Switzerland

•

A study of India's ancient literature leads inevitably to the core basis of all modern religion and modern science. It is always the Vedas, as I find, which provide the clearest answers to the complexities of Soul saving wisdom. For one who cannot understand them, there are *Upanishads*. For one who does not see answers in the *Upanishads*, there are the *Gita* and the *Ramayana*.

An eye opener booklet, "*Great minds on India*" Sahil Grewal clearly illustrates the impact of ancient literature in modern times. Here we see India through the eyes of some of the world's greatest thinkers and poets and are left with a hunger to know more. Much more!

John Palmer, Eastern Ave Las Vegas Nevada 89123

I congratulate Salil Gewali for this beautiful quotes book on Indian classical literature. True intellectual minds who are free from prejudices always appreciate Indian wisdom. Indian wisdom is fully secular and universal. A big proof is Salil's book with eminent scholars' comments. I really wish the depth of Hinduism's metaphysics will one day echo across the Universe, depending on the *karmic* forces... It is the only universal force with a frequency that absorbs all of the human diversity... it is the only answer to humanity's quest for peace... Peace, peace!

Margaret Drummond, Dundee, Scotland

I completely got bowled over by the depth of knowledge and wisdom so meticulously compiled in a short book by Salil Gewali. I think it is a good source book that one has to read again and again to fully grasp why those great Minds applaud Indian literature. Yes indeed, *Indian civilization is the oldest civilization that attracted even Greece's philosophers like Pythagoras and Apollonius of Tyana.*

Mirza A A Baig, London, United Kingdom

'Great minds on India' is a rare jewel compiled and published by Salil Gewali. I am sure that after reading this book, each and every child would feel genuinely proud of his motherland, its rich culture, its equally rich religious philosophies and knowledge...!!

Inder Krishen Wali, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

First of all, I should thank Salil Gewali for this wonderful work, and indeed hard work to bring the good side of our country. These facts of our motherland, the greatest pride of the Nation, should be taught to the children of our country so that they love the Nation more and think twice before doing any wrong act to spoil the reputation of our country....this would indeed help me, by our children and young generation. Once again, a BIG THANK YOU.

—Sukarna Mazumder, Kolkata



This research work needs to be diffused across the globe so that anyone with a modicum of intelligence will realize the depth of Indian Philosophy. This title will make more of humanity understand that the ancient scriptures are for all and it is universal knowledge for man's benefit.

—Raj Sukhdeo, Canada



I find myself reading this book again and again. Each time finding new inspiration in the countless quotes and comments of many of the greatest Minds of our history on the knowledge and wisdom of the oldest civilization known – INDIA.

The countless, easy to read revelations are a source of unending wonder, prompting me to delve deeper into the mystery and wisdom of the ancient texts of the Upanishads and the Vedas to name but two.

To date, I have purchased many copies of the book and presented them as gifts to lots of colleagues and friends. I believe it would benefit the **collective consciousness** of India if every school student and child were given a copy of this great book in order to **re-establish the knowledge and pride within** them, of the depth and importance of their immensely rich heritage.

I am greatly impressed with the amount of research and work that has gone into this amazing compilation.

— Linda Epton, Mundaring, Western Australia



A new title by Salil Gewali

KNOW YOUR INDIA

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India is the country of my soul.*
Queen Frederika of Greece



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- Julius R Oppenheimer



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- Sir William Jones

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